





## Teachers to step up strike action on pay

By Andrew Mearns

More than 126,000 teachers will be called out on a half-day strike unless the employers come up with an improved pay offer on Monday.

The action, announced yesterday, is being planned for February 26, the second largest teaching union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which has delayed applying sanctions until negotiations are seen to have failed.

But there now seems little chance that at Monday's Birmingham Committee pay talks the local authority employers will move from their 4 per cent offer, plus the option of arbitration, which was made and instantly rejected last week. The teachers want £1,200 all round, representing an increase of 12.5 per cent, from April.

The National Union of Teachers has already called on its 235,000 members to take part in a campaign of disruption, which led to children being sent home yesterday from schools in Cumbria, Peterborough, Essex, Sussex, Oldham, Bolton, Manchester and Selby, Yorkshire.

NUT members are refusing to cover for absent staff, supervise pupils at lunch-times or attend out-of-hours staff and parents' meetings.

The campaign has prompted many education authorities to issue warnings that teachers are in the employers' view, in breach of contract and risk disciplinary action or pay deductions.

The NAS/UNT means to start its action with a show of strength. But it shares with the employees a wish to bring about a resumption of negotiations on the restructuring of teachers' contracts — and with the possibility of more money — which has been blocked by the NUT.

The salary talks were stopped by an NUT walk-out before Christmas. The union refuses to link a pay deal to talks on conditions of service.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UNT, said yesterday that a strike was being called to draw attention to teachers' anger over pay and to emphasise the need for a new pay structure.

"This is the last chance for employers to increase their offer if chaos is to be avoided after half-term," he said. "Average pay increases are currently running at 7.5 per cent and the recent 4 per cent offer was simply not good enough."

The NAS/UNT has no immediate plans to ballot its members. The employers have already been advised that the NUT could be liable to court action under the 1984 Trade Union Act for failing to hold a ballot before authorising industrial action.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NAS/UNT, said: "Someone may cause problems for us but if they do we are not going to stand by and lose hundreds of thousands of pounds. We will take a realistic and pragmatic stance. We will do everything to protect our members' money."

The controversy over the employers' warning letters to teachers took a new turn yesterday when one of the legal cases cited as a precedent supporting the teachers' right to dock employees' pay, came up in the Appeal Court.

The court ruled that registrars of births, marriages and deaths should not have their salary docked for refusing to perform Saturday marriage ceremonies during a Naiglo dispute in 1981 and 1982.

Three judges, by a majority, allowed an appeal by Mr Henry Miles, a superintendent registrar, who had unsuccessfully sued Wakefield district council for the return of £774.

The teachers' employers were refused to learn that the judgment was based on the fact that Mr Miles was a Crown servant and not a council employee, although the local authority paid his salary.

Meanwhile, the biggest union representing head teachers yesterday welcomed the call for a review of the law which demands a daily act of worship in schools, now known to be contained in the final version of the long-awaited Swann report.

The Swann committee of inquiry into the education of children from ethnic minority communities, which started taking evidence in July, 1981, will recommend a revamp of part of the 1944 Education Act covering school prayers. Its report is expected to be published in April.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the NAST, said: "What the Swann report appears to be saying is much more in accordance with our views than the Government's views."

The Government seems to have turned a deaf ear to the fact that the act is 40 years old and does not take account of changes in society — and the fact that we have a multicultural society."

## Minister gives council two-week deadline to give assurance on capital spending curb

# Jenkin threatens to veto Liverpool contracts

By Tom Sharratt

The Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, yesterday threatened to invoke an unused power to veto contracts undertaken by Liverpool city council unless it limits its capital spending. If he did this it would be the first time the Government used a power which has been on the statute book since 1980 to prevent councils from getting out of line over their spending on capital projects.

Mr Jenkin has given Liverpool a two-week deadline for its comments on his proposal and for an assurance that the council will keep its capital spending next year within the legal limit. If he is not satisfied with its answer he will issue a direction under the Local Government Planning and Land Act which will compel the council to seek his consent for any new contracts or work undertaken by direct labour.

At a news conference in Liverpool yesterday Mr Jenkin said that, according to reports to the council by the city treasurer, the authority might have difficulty in keeping its capital spending within the legal limit in 1985-86 because of its "very large" contractual commitments, amounting to about £97 million.

The city's allocation for 1985-86 is £20 million; its authorised capital spending, according to present estimates, will be £65 million, but it is impossible at this stage to forecast next year's level of capital receipts with any precision. Mr Jenkin said that the figure could only be determined during the year as the receipts came in.

At the moment, he said, the gap between the limit and the commitments looked as if it might be about £25 million or £27 million, although there were still two months to go before the beginning of the next financial year and there could be developments in that time which might narrow the gap.

"Our view is that it is a very wide one. Given the limit, the size of the allocation, and the available capital receipts that Liverpool have got and might have, and the proportion they are allowed to use, the gap is probably too wide to be bridged."

It was the first time he had had to consider invoking section 73 of the act because most local authorities lived within their limits. There was no suggestion of using the same power against any other authority.

Mr Jenkin said the act applied to all local authorities and he would be bound to take action if he thought any was likely to exceed its capital limit. "There is no question that I am in any sense picking on Liverpool."

If one authority were allowed to ignore its limit and spend money which it had not got and was not entitled to spend, then it put a strain on all other local authorities.

The council could not go on incurring contractual obligations which it would not be able to discharge. "Liverpool city council's approach to its housing is a very narrow, blinkered one, concentrating on what I call the 100 per cent municipal solution — ruling out any support for housing co-operatives, apparently ruling out any partnerships with the private sector, and simply proceeding down what many people would regard as the now-discredited road of massive local authority new building."

He warned building firms to look over carefully at any new contracts they might be offered by the city council to make sure that, with his consent, they would get paid.

The housing allocation of £130 million which he was reported to have agreed for Liverpool was "mythical".

But Mr Tony Byrne, chairman of the city's finance committee, said that Mr Jenkin was telling lies about what he promised during the budget discussions last year. "There is no doubt at all that he gave a verbal promise of £130 million for the capital programme," he said.

In a letter last June Mr Jenkin had promised to help with "positive progress" in dealing with the city's housing needs, and the result had been a 34 per cent cut in housing resources. Mr Byrne said: "Today's statement goes further: it shows the Government is seeking vengeance for the humiliation they received at the hands of the people of Liverpool last year."

Thousands of people were living in bad housing and 15,000 building workers were unemployed. "Mr Jenkin is not only breaking his word but he is showing that he has no personal or political integrity by trying to stop us spending the resources we have a right to spend."

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## Fowler attacks BMA on drugs

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

Drug companies and the British Medical Association were singled out last night for a remarkable attack from Mr Norman Fowler, the social services secretary, for their opposition to the Government's plan for a limited list of prescribed drugs.

Mr Fowler accused them of acting against the interests of patients in their campaign against the proposal and was scathing in his criticism of their tactics.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the health minister, has already taken up arms against the opponents of the scheme, but Mr Fowler's speech in Gosport, Newcastle upon Tyne, was his most outspoken in the long-running argument.

He said of the drug companies: "They have been portraying themselves in expensive newspaper advertisements as the defenders of the NHS and of patients. But their alternatives include, for example, reducing the range of exemptions from prescription charges available to the elderly and children, levying new charges in the health service, and queuing the wholesalers responsible for distributing medical supplies throughout the country. In other words, the pharmaceutical industry's line is 'hit anyone but us, including health service patients'."

He attacked the BMA for failing to argue about the proposed list in detail, an attitude which he said scarcely provided them with good grounds for criticising the final list when it was published shortly.

He claimed that the final list would show many of the worries expressed by some doctors about the range of drugs included in it as unfounded. It is clear that the Department of Health is prepared to make some concessions to those who have argued strongly against the inclusion of some analgesics and laxatives on the list.

Mr Fowler said the eccentric alliance against the proposals was not really an alliance because there was no consistency in their alternative views.

"The truth is that the BMA, the pharmaceutical industry and the Labour Party have made the defenders of the NHS to worry about in each other's proposals than they do in any proposals from me for a limited list. And what matters more is that their proposals would work against the interests of patients, while mine and the others are designed to avoid that danger."

The man who founded the Jaguar car company and presided over it for decades, died yesterday at his home near Rugby. Sir William Lyons, who was 84, developed his Jaguar cars from obscure beginnings as a motorcycle sidecar manufacturer in Blackpool in the early twenties.

His first move into car manufacture was when he began building special bodies for Austin Sevens, and in 1928 he took his expanding company to Coventry.

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In 1933 the first Jaguar made its appearance after Sir William had eliminated names like Hawk and Gazelle from a short list of titles. He was using engines and chassis from the Standard company to which he fitted his own bodies, but the next step was to design and build his own engine—a 160 horsepower, two-and-a-half litre unit which drove his Jaguar SS at over 100 mph.

After the war he began producing cars designed by Jaguar's own experimental drawing shop. The X in the model name indicated the origins of the designs.

Mr Mervyn Taylor, the chief whip of the Irish Labour Party and a member of the Jewish community, said he did not think Menten should be allowed to have a peaceful old age in Ireland.

Another member of the Jewish community and former lord mayor of Cork, Mr Gerald Goldberg, said he did not think it was proper "to have malice in our hearts. For us to sink to the level of Menten and his ilk makes us what he is, and that's an animal."

He was speaking after meeting the Chancellor to press the TUC's case for a budget next month which tackles poverty and unemployment "the real burdens of society."

"He said he thought unemployment was horrible but he tried to demonstrate that it had something to do with taxation — a demonstration I feel was a bit fatuous," said Mr Bassett.

He thought the TUC team had won the argument. "But no Chancellor in the end loses an argument, does he?" If he followed the practice, the Chancellor would do nothing of significance about unemployment and little about poverty. He wanted to redistribute wealth to the wealthy.

The Government had said that reducing inflation would bring down unemployment, but it had not done so; that letting market forces operate would bring down unemployment, but it had not done so; that reducing the public sector borrowing requirement would bring down unemployment, but it had not done so. Now the Chancellor was arguing that bringing down wages would reduce unemployment, but that would mean that people would not work, either. There was no theoretical or empirical evidence to suggest that it would.

The Chancellor had accused the TUC of not contesting his argument about wages and employment at the National Economic Development Council this week. That was not true and the TUC would contest it a lot more strongly, Mr Bassett added.

The TUC told the Chancellor yesterday that putting VAT on children's clothing and footwear, on newspapers, books and magazines, or on food would have a serious effect on jobs as well as being socially regressive. It also voiced opposition to any proposal to withdraw tax relief on occupational pension schemes or to tax lump sum pension payments.

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Participants wore symbolic dress to represent Iranian political prisoners at a demonstration in London yesterday organised by the Union of Muslim Iranian Students' Societies to mark the deaths in Iran three years ago of two particular victims of the Khomeini regime, Mojib Mousa Khazani and Mojib Ashraf Rabihi.

Picture by John Wildgoose



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Picture by John Wildgoose

## Landlords 'harassing tenants in London'

By Aileen Bellamy

The Greater London Council estimates that more than 14,000 private tenants in London have recently suffered serious harassment from their landlords according to a report published yesterday.

The preliminary report, based on interviews with 2,000 private tenants, showed that nearly 4 per cent of London's 350,000 private tenants had suffered harassment ranging from threats to physical assault. It was often associated with attempts by a landlord to force the tenant to leave his home, the report found.

The survey found that more than a third of London's private tenants were pensioners, nearly two thirds of whom were living alone. Forty per cent of them lived in poor or very poor conditions, often without basic amenities such as a bathroom.

Nine per cent of private tenants were found to be non-white, and were paying an average room rent 60 per cent higher than that of white tenants — £18.90 a week, compared with £11.40.

Black private tenants were three times as likely than white ones to be a family with children, and were more than

twice as likely to have suffered harassment. In addition, they were nearly twice as likely (27 per cent to 16 per cent) to be in a letting unprotected by the Rent Acts.

Launching the report yesterday, Mr Tony McCreery, chairman of the GLC housing committee, said the Government had refused to carry out a survey in spite of a recommendation by the Commons all-party select committee on the environment.

At least half of all new lettings were thought to be outside the protection of the Rent Acts. The signs are unmistakable, he said. "The laws that are supposed to be protecting tenants have become a cowboy's charter."

A spokesman for the Small Landlords Association said the survey team had not heard the landlord's side of the story.

He was surprised that as many as a third of new lettings were within the Rent Acts. Going, Going, Almost Gone.

What Price the Private Rented Sector Now? Preliminary report of a survey of the private rented sector in London. Free from Hal Penson, Room 1B1N, The County Hall, London, SE1.

## Iran hits Talbot

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

Iran's political and economic problems have had a direct effect on the Talbot motor company, which yesterday laid off 1,000 workers at its Stoke plant near Coventry, for an indefinite period.

The workers produce car kits in a £20 million contract for Iran. The kits are assembled at the Khodro plant in Iran, where they are sold under the trade name Peykan. Talbot has been forced into its action, and warned the unions that it would have to take this step last week when it announced that letters of credit for the contract were outstanding. The letters should have arrived in December.

Talbot is anxious to maintain the contract with Iran. It is lucrative, and in a normal year the Stoke plant produces between 75,000 and 90,000 car kits. It admitted yesterday that it was dealing with a country in conflict and was trying to find easier ways of ensuring payment.

A team from the company is in Iran discussing a possible switch to payment by oil barter, a system favoured by the Iranians. This would mean that Talbot would obtain payments from a third party, a customer for Iran's oil.

## Labour up in London

By Martin Linton

A survey by two Oxford psephologists has shown that the Labour Party performed significantly better in London last year than it did in the rest of the country, a result that they ascribe to the success of the campaign against abolition of the GLC.

The survey indicates that Labour would have defeated the Conservatives in a general election in the latter half of 1984 if the results in the whole country had reflected the state of the parties in London.

Such a national election would have given Labour 316 seats, Conservatives 274, and the Alliance 36, whereas the state of the parties in the whole country would have left the Conservatives as the biggest party with 311 seats, Labour in second place with 287 and the Alliance with 28.

The figures show the national shares of the votes for all parties in a general election if the whole country had voted, first, as London did, and, secondly, as the rest of the country did in May-December 1984:

	Greater East of London	Rest of London
Conservative	34.2	38.7
Labour	37.2	36.4
Alliance	28.7	24.9

The author and psychiatrist, Dr. Muriel Gardiner, who helped anti-fascist dissidents to leave Austria during the 1930s, has died at the age of 83 at the Princeton University Medical Centre, USA. She was widely believed to have been the model for Julia in the Lillian Hellman story in the book *Phantom* which was later made into a film with Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda.

## OBITUARY

### Founder of Jaguar

The man who founded the Jaguar car company and presided over it for decades, died yesterday at his home near Rugby. Sir William Lyons, who was 84, developed his Jaguar cars from obscure beginnings as a motorcycle sidecar manufacturer in Blackpool in the early twenties.

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## Irish Jews opposing return of Menten

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

MEMBERS of Ireland's small Jewish community have expressed concern at reports that the convicted war criminal Pieter Menten is to return to his Irish mansion when he is released from prison in Holland next month.

Menten, a millionaire art collector, was gaoled by the Dutch courts for 10 years for his part in the murder of more than 30 people in 1941. Now aged 85, he is to be released after serving two thirds of the sentence.

He owns a stately home, said



# Fuel train derailment blamed on axle

By Michael Morris

A fuel train derailed and caught fire in the Summit tunnel under the Pennines, it emerged at a public inquiry held by the Department of Transport yesterday.

But the inquiry inspector, Mr David Saver said that what caused the axle box bearing failure in one of the 13 tankers was not yet known, and investigations were continuing.

The fire in late December, described as unique in this country, took four days to put out. At one stage a column of flame shot out of a ventilation shaft to a height of 150 metres, as heat inside the tunnel reached 1,300 degrees centigrade.

Nobody was injured, but firemen from Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire who went to the train had to flee

when a tanker ignited and sent a fireball along the 2,885-yard tunnel near Todmorden, north of Manchester. More than 70 residents of Summit village were evacuated.

The crew of the 140 am express freight train, bound for the ICI plant at Glazebrook, Cheshire, told the inquiry how they ran for nearly a mile in the dark to raise the alarm when the train was brought to a standstill at 5.50 am as the result of a brake being automatically applied.

They expected the fuel tankers—holding more than 80 tonnes of motor petrol—to blow up at any moment.

Mr Stanley Marshall, the 50-year-old driver, remarked: "I said, 'Let's get out of here.' There were flames. I expected an explosion."

He added: "If Sebastian Coe can do a mile in four minutes, I could beat it. I told the missus Coe had nothing on me."

But it was the train guard, Mr Graham Broadbent, the youngest and fittest of the three-man crew, got to the phone first.

Later, the men, who included Mr Stanley Smalley, a guard's inspector, re-entered the tunnel "at considerable risk" to bring out the locomotive and leading three tankers.

Mr Smalley said: "After we got down we smelled fumes and smoke. About 30 seconds later there was a whoosh noise, but quite a lot of flame." The 10 remaining tank wagons were damaged beyond repair, and only the rearmost vehicle was not derailed.

Mr Donald Reid, area rolling stock maintenance engineer, who examined the wreckage, said that everything pointed to axle failure, though he could not say what caused it, as he was not an expert on roller bearings.

"We found a roller bearing axle box detached, with the end of the axle inside, underneath the tenth vehicle of the train."

The inquiry was also told that out of 590 derailments over four years, there were 27 failures of axle boxes; 13 of these involved roller boxes of the type in the tunnel incident, and three were on tanker trains.

The inspector, whose report will be published, said of the derailment: "Clearly, it was caused by axle failure, but by a cause yet to be determined."

# Accused farmer 'told of affairs'

Graham Backhouse, the farmer accused of attempting to murder his wife with a home-made booby trap car bomb, had affairs with two women in the months before the alleged attempt on her life, a court was told yesterday.

He admitted having sexual relations with a young shepherdess and the wife of a close friend during that time, according to his alleged statement made to police and read at Bristol crown court. Backhouse allegedly made the admission to Det. Sgt. Frank Vowles on April 9 last year, the day of the explosion.

Backhouse, aged 44, denies the attempted murder of his wife Margaret, aged 37, at their home in the village of Horton, Avon.

The prosecution alleges that he planted the bomb to gain £100,000 insurance money.

The Crown also alleges that when he realised that he was suspected for the bombing Backhouse chose his near neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor, as a scapegoat. He was found dead from two shotgun wounds at the Backhouse farmhouse on April 30.

Backhouse denies murdering him, claiming that he shot Mr Bedale-Taylor in self-defence.

In his alleged statement, Backhouse told police that during his last nine years he had had sexual relations with Miss Gillian Lippiat, a shepherdess from a nearby farm, on numerous occasions. The last occasion was about six months or so ago.



Gillian Lippiat: 'close affection' for Backhouse

He also allegedly admitted having sexual relations with Mrs. Caroline Hodgkinson, of Horton.

Backhouse allegedly said: "This was not a serious relationship. It happened when we were both the worse for drink." But he said that his relationship with Miss Lippiat was different. "I was the first man to have sex with her and we have a certain affection with each other because of this."

In the statement, which detailed his early family history, Backhouse is said to have described how he met and married his wife over 10 years earlier. They have two children.

The trial continues on Monday.

# Go-ahead for bill to enhance conservation

By David McKie

A private member's bill which aims to ensure that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission will attach greater weight to conservation and protection of the countryside was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday.

Supporters of the bill feared that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission were hostile to some of its provisions and that the Government might therefore try to obstruct it. In fact, the junior environment minister, Mr William Waldegrave, gave the bill a cautious welcome, though he

said that some provisions would need to be examined closely in committee.

The Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill is sponsored by Dr David Clark (Lab., South Shields), who is his party's Commons spokesman on "green" issues. It seeks to work through the same principles of co-operation and consultation with farming interests as the parent act. Some Labour MPs, including Dr Clark, favour stronger measures of protection but accept that a milder measure such as this has a better chance of gaining consensus support.

Dr Clark told the Commons that his bill had the backing not only of conservationist groups and of organisations like the Countryside Commission but also of the National Farmers' Union and Country Landowners' Association. He said this was a minimal bill, supported by the Department of the Environment's own advisers, and he hoped that rumours of opposition would prove wrong.

Two clauses in the bill were supplied to Dr Clark by government departments. The first, which comes from the Home Office, strengthens the

protection given to badgers by making it an offence to carry out any action which someone knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, would lead to the taking, injuring or killing of badgers. At present, deliberate intent must be shown.

The second, supplied by the Department of the Environment, is designed to close a loophole in the protection given to sites of special scientific interest. Some farmers, the Commons was told, had used this loophole to destroy such sites before protection took effect.



Flames shooting from a ventilation shaft after the derailment in December

# Theatres worse off after tax exemption

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

DUBLIN theatre managers are trying to persuade the Irish Finance Minister that his munificence in exempting them from VAT is going to cost them more than paying the tax.

Mr Alan Dukes removed the five per cent tax on theatres in his budget last week. But the initial approval for his magnanimity has evaporated with the realisation that some theatres will pay more tax.

They will no longer be able to recover the VAT they pay to their suppliers, Dublin's two leading theatres, the Abbey and the Gate, say they will be worse off as a result.

"I don't believe the minister was trying to make us worse off," says Mr Michael Colgan, the artistic director of the Gate. "I'm sure he thought he was doing us a favour, but the fact is that this change will cost us up to £25,000 this year."

Mr Dukes initially disputed this analysis, insisting that the theatres had to end up better off with a five per cent cut in their costs. But officialdom is no longer so sure.

Mr Colgan explains: "After our comments about this a phalanx of official accountants, statisticians and economists descended on us. Our manager showed them all the figures at the end of which they just said: 'Oh, they said they would come back to us, but we have not heard anything yet.'"

Mr Martin Fahy, the Abbey's manager, reckons that it will lose between £30,000 and £40,000 from the exemption. He adds: "Ideally, we would like to be zero-rated or, at worst, have the five per cent rate back."

Unlike an exemption, a zero rate would leave the theatres registered for VAT and therefore entitled to recover the tax they pay to suppliers. But EEC instructions limit the number of businesses in any member country which can have a zero rate, and Ireland has reached its quota.

The 5 per cent rate cannot be reimposed because it was abolished in the budget's overhaul of the VAT system.

# Man who attacked raider acquitted

By a Correspondent

A shopkeeper who attacked an intruder after his premises had been raided seven times was found not guilty at Inner London Crown Court yesterday of causing grievous bodily harm.

It was stated that Mr John O'Connell, aged 40, had a grocery shop in Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, London, which had been broken into seven times in a month. Mr O'Connell set up a video camera in his cellar to warn him of a further attack and when a youth entered the premises last May 12 he hit him over the head with a length of piping.

Alan Atkins, aged 19, of Norwood Road, Herne Hill, had his jaw broken and his head cut. He had later admitted four burglaries, including two at Mr O'Connell's shop, and was sentenced to 30 hours' community service, the court was told.

Mr Charles Byers, prosecuting, said: "He gave the burglar a good working over. It is something that might enter a lot of people's minds."

Mr O'Connell told the court that after 10 years at the grocer's shop he had been forced into selling up and moving out. "I reported one of the burglaries but there was not much the police could do. If it carried on, I stood to lose everything."

During the hearing the judge warned the jury not to be swayed by the trial of the American subway vigilante accused of shooting four muggers.

Mr John O'Connell—lay in wait



Mr John O'Connell—lay in wait

# Top policeman cleared

A senior Sri Lankan police officer was awarded undisclosed compensation in the High Court yesterday, after two judges ruled that he had been wrongly convicted of shoplifting at Selfridges in London.

Lord Justice Watkins said the store detective concerned, who was later convicted of stealing from his employers, had been guilty of deception and a "scandalous and wilful" attempt to secure a conviction.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed

that an appeal by the deputy inspector of Sri Lankan police, Mr Tyrrell Goonatilleke, against his conviction at Knightsbridge Crown Court for stealing a bag and tools worth £33 should be allowed. The conviction was quashed and an absolute discharge, imposed by the crown court, was set aside.

Mr Goonatilleke, the only police officer awarded the Sri Lankan President's order of merit, was alleged to have committed the offence in 1982, when he was in Britain for open-heart surgery.

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**BANK OF SCOTLAND Account Details**

As of Close of business 14 Jan 85

Account No 00428407

Balance	125.84
Today's items	75.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdr pending	30.00
Interest accrued	-1.12
Charges accrued	-0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key 8 Account Index 1 Statement  
2 Today's Items 9 Finish

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland

**Make Bill Payments**

Mandate No 104  
to 8 of 5 Visa Card  
Reference 432951234567

Account to be debited on 04th February 1985

Amount £174.26

Bill paid by 06th February 1985

No changes after 30th January 1985

Key 1 To confirm this payment  
2 To change this payment  
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland

**BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers**

Details

From Current Account No 00428407  
Grant J A Pers Acc  
Home Banking Centre

To Investment Account No 02037184  
Grant J A  
Home Banking Centre

Amount £100.00

Key 1 To send 2 Not to send  
3 Change Account 4 Change Amount 5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland

**Standing Order Mandates Held**

To	Next Due	Unit	Amount
Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key 7 More Mandates  
9 Finish

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

Bank of Scotland

**A/C No 00428407 Statement**

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	-45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P B Oil	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	-100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.96	125.84

Key 7 Earlier Items  
9 Finish

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland

**BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management**

148 High St Southampton  
ACCOUNT: 00101407 CURRENCY: STG

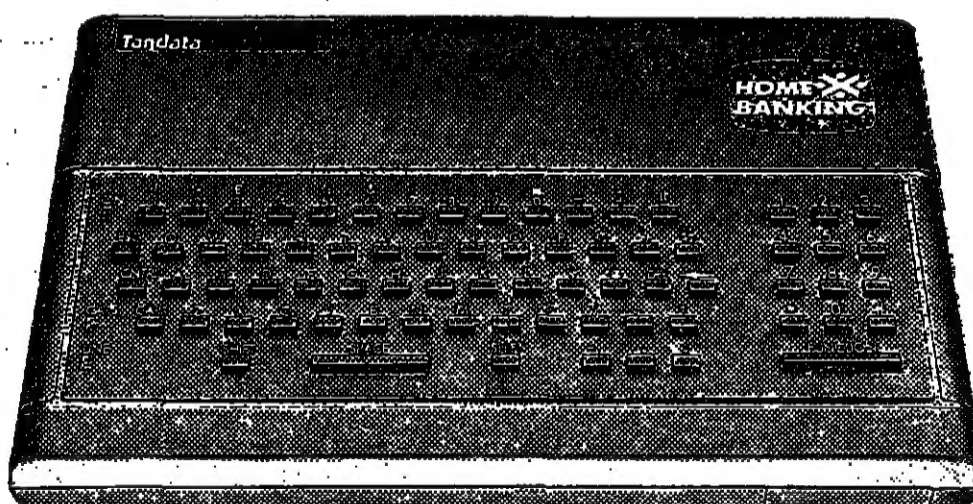
Ledger position on first lines  
Debitments expiring and cleared  
position on second lines

Date	Credit	Debit	Balance
14Jan1985	1,456	504	1,733
15Jan1985	389	750	2,094
16Jan1985	0	1,048	1,117
17Jan1985	0	2,884	2,094
17Jan1985	0	0	2,094
	327		2,094

Key 9 Finish

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Spy scandal inquiry shows extent of the leaks

# Five Eastern bloc diplomats received Indian secrets

From Ajay Bose in New Delhi

Police investigations into the Indian spy scandal have shown that three Russian diplomats and one each from East Germany and Poland regularly received state secrets leaked by junior officials in government departments.

The diplomats, who held middle-ranking posts in the New Delhi embassies of the Soviet bloc countries, are believed to have been collecting for several years a vast array of secret documents relating to India's foreign policy and planned purchases from the West of technical and defence equipment.

At least two of the 15 people arrested on charges of spying have also named the Soviet Union and the diplomats involved in their confessions in court this week. The proceedings were held in camera.

The diplomats are expected to be recalled by their governments soon but not before the scheduled visit of the Polish Prime Minister, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, next week. The Indian Government is believed to have protested to the Soviet Union and the other Eastern bloc countries

about the activities of their diplomats, but agreed to postpone their recall until General Jaruzelski's visit is over to avoid embarrassment.

The government has also done its best to flush up the Soviet connection with the official foreign spokesman for the third consecutive day. Refusing to confirm or deny newspaper reports about involvement in the spy scandal.

**POLICE** in Calcutta shot dead eight people yesterday when an army patrol was ambushed in the northern suburbs. The cause of the attack was not reported immediately.—AP.

Officials in the New Delhi courts, where proceedings of the espionage case are being held, have been severely reprimanded for leaking details to the press of Soviet involvement. Instructions have been issued to them not to divulge the contents of the court proceedings.

Meanwhile, three weeks after the first disclosure of the spy scandal by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Parliament, excitement and controversy continues to grow here

on the most sensational espionage case in the country.

While the selling of state secrets by government employees has been universally condemned, the espionage case in which more than a dozen junior officials have been arrested and which also led to the resignation or premature retirement of at least two top-level bureaucrats has caused heartburn in Indian official quarters.

Annoyed by the continuing public outcry against the bureaucracy the investigations have accused the police and intelligence services of carrying out a witch hunt against public servants.

The fear of this has also resulted in the strange situation where many officials are now refusing postings in sensitive government departments.

The Prime Minister's Secretariat for example, is now badly understaffed with the arrest of five junior officials in the department as well as the resignation of the Prime Minister's principal secretary, Dr P. C. Alexander, following the spy scandal. The prestigious department for which normally there are hundreds of applicants, is now finding it difficult to recruit staff.

## Curbs to be eased on China sales

Paris: The United States and its Allies are edging towards relaxation of controls on sales of advanced industrial technology to China. Western diplomats said yesterday.

But progress is slow and much work remains, they said after a meeting here of the 15-country Western coordinating committee on strategic exports, CoCom.

The committee agreed to set up several working groups to study technical problems.

CoCom was set up in 1950 to block Western military exports to the Communist world. It links Japan with all NATO members except Spain and Iceland. It saw sharp exchanges between the US and its European allies after President Reagan tried in 1982 to stop European firms supplying parts for a Soviet gas pipeline project.

But the latest two-day meeting, the first bi-annual session since April 1983, was marked by general agreement on the need to ease sales to China, diplomats said.

Both US and European firms recently complained of delays in getting licences to sell high technology to Peking. A flood of contracts signed in the past year appears to have overwhelmed the committee's monitoring and licensing machinery.

The China issue took up most of the two meetings and a speeding up of licensing procedures is likely to follow, the diplomats said.

An official statement issued later said the talks reviewed progress since April 1983 in improving the way CoCom works. "Progress was considered satisfactory both in respect of coordination between member states and in updating the list of controlled products and technologies," it said.

CoCom embargo lists cover armaments, nuclear material, and industrial technology with military applications, such as computers and telecommunications.—Reuter.

## Gandhi seizes poll to fight corruption

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has seized on local assembly elections in 11 states next month to step up his drive against corruption and inefficiency in his Congress (I) Party.

When nominations closed yesterday, Congress had dropped about 1,000 sitting MPs out of 2,500, including 70 state ministers or one-third of the total. The Prime Minister also axed about 30 per cent in the Christmas general election.

Party officials claimed that 60 per cent of the newcomers were under 45 and about 40 per cent were university graduates. This is another sign that the alienation of the intelligentsia from Congress under Mrs Indira Gandhi is coming to an end.

Mr Gandhi's main failure has been in the selection of women candidates for the state elections. Only 15 per cent of the Congress list of women candidates is a shortlist of 5 per cent on the Prime Minister's own target.

Officials said that not

enough women applied, especially in the more conservative states. In Rajasthan, for instance, Congress is putting up 14 women among 200 candidates. In Pondicherry it is offering an all-male slate.

The criteria for selection were a clear image and success in delivering the vote for Congress in the parliamentary poll. Mr Gandhi and his high command also took the opportunity to drop what one official defined yesterday as "professional troublemakers." After his December landslide, the Prime Minister no longer needed to appease the dissidents.

Many of the party rejects are standing as independents against official candidates, which will boost opposition hopes in some marginal seats. Congress leaders are particularly uneasy about the split vote in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, but they argue that in most cases Indians prefer to vote for a party rather than a maverick, unless the official candidate is demonstrably inferior. Congress publicity will focus on regional development and on the new young leader.

## Heavy casualties in Khmer clash

Aranyaprathet, Thailand: About 100 Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded in close fighting with Khmer Rouge guerrillas near Kampuchea's border with Thailand on Thursday night and yesterday, Thai military officials said.

Up to 40 guerrillas were killed or wounded in fighting mostly initiated by the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge.

The officials said guerrillas on Thursday blunted a two-pronged thrust against their headquarters on Hill 328 near the Thai frontier. The guerrillas hit back heavily yesterday.

The Thais said the bodies of two Vietnamese were recovered

after Thai rangers clashed with Vietnamese troops who crossed the border near Khao Din, south of Aranyaprathet.

In Singapore, the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, has ended his South-east Asian diplomatic shuttle by admitting that he has been unable to find a compromise to resolve the Kampuchean problem.

Peace talks could not begin at this stage because of the wide gap between the parties to the six-year-old conflict, he told reporters after an airport conference with Singapore's Foreign Minister, Mr Suppiah Dhanabalan.—Reuter.

## Pakistan arrests more dissidents

From Alex Brodie in Islamabad

The military government has arrested more than 30 opponents in the run-up to the elections later this month, which are being boycotted by parties covering a wide political spectrum.

The detentions were in North-west Frontier province. The long time politician and leader of the National Democratic Party, Mr Abdul Wali Khan, and his wife, Begum Nasrin, a political figure in her own right, were placed under house arrest.

The arrests have been made to take place tomorrow, due to take place tomorrow, of the Frontier branch of the outlawed opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy. Officials said that those rounded up might be released next week.

Some 3,000 people attended a memorial rally in the Frontier village of Sherpao, to mark the murder 10 years ago of the former Pakistan Peoples Party leader, Mr Hayat Mohammad Sherpao. Speeches were made calling for a return to democracy, elections under the 1973 constitution which has been suspended, and a boycott of the elections, in which political parties are banned.

Several opposition leaders left the meeting expecting to be arrested. When the arrests began on Thursday several went into hiding so that they could attend the rally.

The three weeks of arrests came three weeks after a meeting of MRD parties, which the Government allowed, perhaps in the hope that some parties would decide to take part in the elections. In the event, the MRD said there would be no more such meetings, and the arrests began.

There are now 200 political prisoners in Punjab, according to the political prisoners' Release and Relief Committee. Among them are most of the provinces' senior opposition leaders.

In Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, a former MRD spokesman, Mr Fateh Ali Khan, was arrested on Thursday together with two political prisoners already jailed. He is believed to be in C class cells — the lowest category. Political leaders are usually in B class cells where they have certain privileges, including a bed and bathroom. General Zia said recently that the door to negotiations with the Opposition was closed. The elections would go ahead without them.

## Extradition plea vetoed

TAIPEI: Taiwan has turned down a US request to extradite two local gang leaders charged with the murder of a Chinese-American writer in California last year.

The Taipei prosecutor also announced that a district court would start hearings on Monday into the murder of Henry Liu, a fiery critic of Taiwan, in Daly City in October. A court official said that Chen Chi-Li and Wu Tun, leaders of Taiwan's Bamboo Union gang, would be charged with murder and illegal possession of arms.

This reaffirms Taiwan's position that none of its citizens can be extradited for trial.—Reuter.

## Botha looking both ways as SA ponders the meaning of reform

By Roger Omond

SOMETHING is stirring down in South Africa. The hope of what verligte (enlightened) Afrikaners call reform, but what many blacks see merely as bringing apartheid up to date, is beginning to take shape. In the past few weeks the Government has:

- Said in the broadest terms that the notorious Immorality and Mixed Marriages Acts are likely to be scrapped;

- Suggested that Nelson Mandela could be freed and that talks with the banned African National Congress (ANC) are not the impossibility they were once thought;

- Promised that removals of Africans will be halted unless they are voluntary;
- Pledged a new forum for Africans to be heard somewhere in the corridors of central government;

- Announced yesterday that 44 select business districts will be opened to traders of all races;

- Held out the possibility of freehold rights for qualified Africans in "white" South Africa.

"Promises, promises," said a senior Progressive Federal Party MP, Dr Alex Boraine, shortly after President P. W. Botha had opened the first full session of the country's new tricameral Parliament. "How many times have we heard before that the Government is moving away from 'unnecessary' discrimination?"

There is, justifiably, still some cynicism among opponents of apartheid. Chief Justice Buthe, Chief Minister of KwaZulu, rejected the new and still undefined forum for Africans. But Dr Nthato Motlana, head of the old Soweto Committee of Ten and a more militant enemy of segregation, detected some signs of hope.

The fact that Chief Buthe and Dr Motlana disagree on this issue could be significant. It also indicates that the debate among South Africans—black and white—on their future is widening and becoming more vigorous.

In Cape Town alone there are more than a dozen political and community organisations that have sprung up in recent years. Many are affiliates to the United Democratic Front which supports the Freedom Charter drawn up by the ANC and its allies in the mid-1950s.

Other groups tend more to the black consciousness line of the National Forum. The UDF is non-racial; the Forum says that the "oppressed"—meaning blacks—must fight for their own liberation, without whites at this stage, but aiming for a non-racial, socialist South Africa in the future.

Neither group is united: the UDF was divided by the invitation to Senator Edward Kennedy to tour the country. Affiliates to the Forum are re-examining their policies. Both groups spend some of their time criticising the other for ideological impurities. The Coloured and Indian communities are split on whether to take part in the new parliamentary chambers that have been set up for them.

There is also division among whites. The FPP has

Where apartheid rules, the critics say, 'progress' is only skin-deep



Segregation still rules: despite the talk of reform from the Botha government, a number of beaches — like this one near Cape Town — are still reserved for whites only. A number of blacks were ordered off beaches over the Christmas holiday period

some worries that its base of supporters may defect to the National Party if Mr Botha implements a reform programme—just as many did during the referendum on whether the new constitution should be introduced.

One National Party MP gave a clear indication that the party's discipline is no longer as rigid as it was. In front of several senior government colleagues and English-language journalists he said: "I always thought that this government couldn't screw up the economy. Now they've done it." Nobody did more than blink in the past, such was the sense of loyalty, the MP would not have considered saying anything so bold, so openly.

But there is little promise of the verligte hiving off as the verkrampes (rightwing) did first to the Herstigte Nasionale Party and then to the more prominent Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht. The feeling that they belong to the volksparty is still too strong: they will

work from within to try to effect change.

But they, like others on the left, worry that Mr Botha does not really know where he is going and that he is too worried by the right "it's time," said one observer, "to unwrap the 'hidden agenda' — if there is one."

What is striking about the centre-left is its commitment: helping to bring out Africa and Coloured community newspapers but not dominating these self-help groups as black consciousness organisations have often accused them of doing, aiding the burgeoning black trade union movement, researching into all aspects of South African society, and training people in literacy.

The wider debate in South Africa can also be seen, to some extent, in the relative passivity of the Special Branch. True, last year's stayaway by half-a-million workers met with the traditional response: the leaders were detained. Yet the Min-

ister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, is said to have been overruled in Cabinet when, on the advice of his security police, he wanted to ban the UDF.

Part of this is attributed by a number of academics and lawyers to the greater role being played in government by the State Security Council which is seen to function as a "super-cabinet" under President Botha.

It is dominated by the military brass, with whom Mr Botha worked intimately during his 14 years as minister of defence, and the more sophisticated intelligence chiefs, many of whom have taken to heart the President's slogan "adapt or die."

Just what those adaptations will prove to be remains to be seen. If the Immorality and Mixed Marriages Acts can, the Population Registration Act, the Group Areas Act and all the other legislative pillars of apartheid remain intact for long?

Mr Botha's offer of a new forum for Africans and freehold rights in "white" areas was "the end of separate development," Dr Treurnicht said last month. "That it is not. The lives of most black South Africans have hardly been touched by all the talk of reform. The economy is in poor shape; inflation at about 15 per cent; retrenchments in many industries commonplace; food more expensive than ever, and most apartheid laws still rigidly enforced."

Is there hope for less rigid apartheid? Mr Botha, opening Parliament, felt he could go only this far: "Directives are going to all departments and other government bodies concerned with functions relating to blacks in the socio-economic sphere to submit programmes for the improvement of attitudes in the performance of their functions and for the elimination of problems identified in their respective fields."

Even his statement on freehold rights for Africans was hedged with qualifications: they "should be made possible," he said, but adding: "There is a mistaken belief in certain circles in South Africa that the acquisition of rights to land leads to the acquisition of residential and political rights."

To date, Mr Botha's promised reforms have had little impact on white South Africa. Many more blacks are now serving in shops and banks; more beaches are open to all, officially or unofficially; the Immorality Act, in fact, is less applied than it was; more restaurants and hotels have "international" status and can accept people of colour as customers.

Behind the high walls around their spacious suburban homes, many with the swimming pools now regarded as essential to comfortable living despite the high mortgage rate, white life continues much as before.

That lifestyle is summed up in one incident. In the home of a long-standing British immigrant, the African maid is summoned to wash the dishes after dinner. She is not called by name. The white madam goes to the kitchen and flicks off and on the light switch to her outside room. That is her signal to return to work.

## Ethiopia aid chief takes the strain

By Michael Stammers

Mr Kurt Jansson, head of the United Nations emergency food programme in Ethiopia, arrives in Britain tomorrow or next week to discuss urgent talks with British ministers and the main famine relief agencies.

He arrives at a time when new strains seem to be emerging in the relationship between some relief organisations and the Ethiopian Government, notably about the logistics of getting food supplies into the politically-contested areas of Tigre and Eritrea. The Government's moves to "resettle" a million or more people, from the north to the south, a time when up to a million refugees could be heading for the Sudan have added to the difficulties.

Mr Jansson has had discussions with Mengistu, head of the Ethiopian Government, about known UN difficulties in getting food to the contested areas and in obtaining permits to allow UN officials more freedom of movement in the country. One possibility is that the relief agencies which have been active in the country will do their best to strengthen Mr Jansson's arm as the discussions in Addis Ababa continue.

The British ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Bryan Barder, has been in London for some days briefing officials on the situation on the ground.

Another possibility is that Mr Jansson will be seeking to coordinate the thinking of the voluntary relief organisations due to take place in Geneva shortly. Bringing together these organisations and their European counterparts. It would clearly be in his interests to have the concerted backing of at least most of these organisations in any further talks with Col. Mengistu.

Mr Jansson was appointed by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, to Ethiopia just over three months ago, now that the

UN's own estimate that 7.7 million Ethiopians face starvation could be too low.

A third possibility during the coming week's talks could concern the agencies taking the opportunity to exert more pressure on the British Government to clarify its policies towards the Mengistu regime.

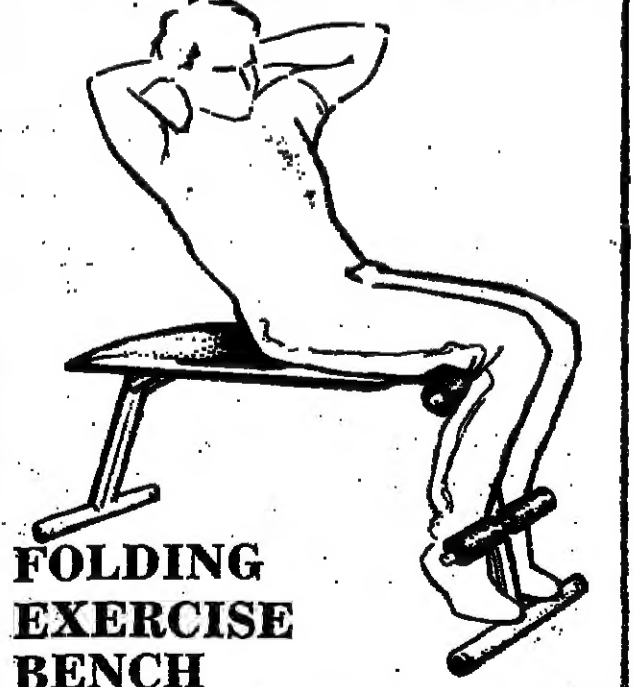
One non-governmental agency official said last night that the overseas Development Administration was "mouthed and confusing" in its attitudes, that it seemed untethered in any big effort to prevent the 1980s disaster from being repeated in the 1990s and that there could be no agreement anyway so long as the ODA minister, Mr Raison, remained "at loggerheads" with the responsible minister at the Foreign Office, Mr Rifkind.

One informed view is that the ODA would like to do much more about Ethiopia and the Sudan but was being prevented by more rigid monetarism in the Foreign Office, including Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The relief agencies are expected also to raise the issue of the Ethiopian resettlement programme. Although the programme was first activated about two years ago, the fact that it is now being implemented with renewed zeal is giving the agencies cause for concern. Food and other resources, including transport, are said to be going instead to transit camps and other centres for those willing to resettle. Would-be resettlers are being given twice the food allocation of those not willing to move.

● Sudan has been hit recently by severe shortages of basic foodstuffs as well as of petrol, which was selling on the black market this week at \$3.47 a gallon in the provincial capital of Kassala, and \$2.25 in the capital, Khartoum, according to sources in the two cities.

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Two hundred riot police, using truncheons and shields, charge student demonstrators who try to gather at the US embassy in Manila. They were denouncing American support for President Ferdinand Marcos



# GRASSROOTS

## Roll over Niagara

Welcome home, daddy. Daddy, did you see E.A. Hume? Face I Murdock, you know, all them people from the A Team? "Those people. No. I did not see the A Team, son. Well, tell me about the waterfall, daddy. Which waterfall, son? The waterfall that those nice people from the New York Department of Commerce were bringing you to see and see. That was not a bribe. That was a press trip. Well, tell me about the waterfall. You said it was the biggest in the world. The third biggest. Well, 100,000 cubic feet of water goes over it every second in the tourist season. In off-peak periods, it's only 50,000 cubic feet. At least, so Charlie said. Who's Charlie? Charlie was the polar bear who was driving the mini-bus. I say he was a polar bear, son, because he did not seem to feel the cold like you your daddy and the editor of Over 21 magazine felt it. Do you know who Nikola Tesla was? The editor of Over 21 magazine? No. Nikola Tesla was the inventor of the AC induction motor. He was a Yugoslav. His statue stands in the grounds of the Edward Dean Adams Electric Power Station which stands on the bank of the Niagara River. The statue was so big that, in spite of the blizzard, we could see it clearly from three or maybe four inches away. A real blizzard? Yup. As a matter of fact they

call it the Alberta Clipper. The Alberta Clipper is a cold wind that races down from Canada, swims over Lake Erie, sucks up the warm water, and deposits it in fistfuls on the guests of the New York Department of Commerce. In their newspapers, son, they had drawings of a greatly enlarged section of the human epidermis just so that readers trapped in their cars could pinch their cheeks and feel how far the frost-bite had set in. On the radio they had said there was a wind

Daddy, have you started drinking again? Have you tasted American beer? No. I was down to the Carol Schwartzoll Effect. This stipulates that if anything can go wrong in Niagara Falls, it will. Was she a Yugoslav too? I'll come to her in a minute. What happened is this. We couldn't see the waterfall on the first day because of the Alberta Clipper. The sky was full of snowflakes the size of rhubarb leaves. The next day a state of emergency was declared and we weren't allowed outside the hotel. We might just have seen the waterfall the first night, before the state of emergency was declared, but there was too much ravioli. The Alberta Clipper again? No. The Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau people. They took us out to an expensive restaurant. The idea was that once we were fed and thawed out and the Daily Express could feel his right hand and Manchester Evening News could roll his eyeballs, we would try again, because by night the waterfall is flooded. But there was too much ravioli. We were delayed. We arrived at the waterfall at 9.31 pm. "Too bad, you guys," chortled the local esquimaux. "They put the lights out at 9.30. That was bad luck but then, I thought, not as bad luck as that had by Donald or was it David Leach, an early victim of the Carol Schwartzoll Effect. Who was Donald or David Leach, daddy? He was a man, son, who came to Niagara Falls when it wasn't snowing so, getting



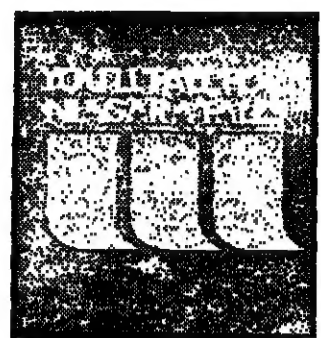
chill factor of -50 Centigrade. Charlie didn't seem to listen much to the radio. Charlie sounds like one of the A Team. Charlie should have been shot by the A Team. Daddy, this must have been awfully disappointing for the Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau people. When did you get to see the waterfall? We didn't. But you were there for three days? I know.



Did they really fly you to Niagara? Yes, Erlend Clouston agrees, but cautiously. The falls are out of this world, aren't they? Yes, he says, I expect so... though I never saw them. But weren't you there for three whole days...?

sort of light-headed about this, he decided to roll over the waterfall in a barrel. Wasn't that dangerous? It was. But he survived. Son a bit later he slipped on a banana skin in the street and broke his neck. How do you know all this, daddy? Well, when the state governor locked us up in the hotel we had plenty of time to read the papers and watch the television. And were they talking about Mr Leach? No, not directly. They were talking about Mr Suchak. Mr Suchak was a brave man who rolled over the waterfall in a barrel last year. He planned to make a career out of dropping in great heights in a barrel, but his career came to an end when his barrel fell on to his water tank rather than into his water tank.

believe that the earth was created on a turtle's back, which is funny when all the other Americans know was built on Conrad Hilton's back. Niagara Falls is also the home of Spirella Corsets and Shredded Wheat. The Shredded Wheat factory was built 75 years ago by a man called Henry O. Perky. American names are funny, aren't they, daddy? Strange, certainly, son. My favourite was the Niagara Hilton. Employee of the Month for last May: Tanya



Tuggle. That's quite a name. Tuggle. You can't imagine anyone called Tuggle being big or strong or a six-shooter ace, yet the Tuggles evidently came West with the best of them, in the process persuading the large descendants of the great Mohawk Hiawatha — sorry, Hi-Yoh-Went-Ha — that their future lay in conquering the museum hours rather than scalps. Was Carol Schwartzoll a Mohawk, daddy? Possibly a Mohawk from Munich. Anyway, the poor

people from the Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, who were terribly kind and funny really, begged us to visit their ten storey Winter Garden. This is connected to the Niagara Hilton by a glass tube so we were not in any immediate danger from the Alberta Clipper. Well, son, I am not a botanist or gardener or anything but it did seem to me that, while the architecture was striking, the greenery did look a bit woozy. I told myself, The NFCAVB deserve a break. I went over to sign the visitor's book and found that Carol Schwartzoll had been there before me. Something made me jot down her comments on the linings of my borrowed parka. "It is disgusting that you let such an incredible facility as this run down to the point where the plants are all either dead, half dead, or just surviving. Get with it — Carol Schwartzoll, Resident of this City." Poor old Niagara Falls. So your trip was a washout, daddy? Not quite, son. In the lobby of the Niagara Hilton they have a terrific ice hockey game — the USA versus Russia. Before you can start playing, the machine plays the American national anthem. If you don't like what the other player does, you can press the Boo Button and the machine boos. I was the USA and the Bristol Evening Post was Russia, and I won every time. Daddy, you must have cheated. Hey! Stop pushing! You know I don't stand well on three toes.

C. L. Heywood describes the public defiance the last time they imposed a tax on newspapers, and suggests why the Queen refused to open Manchester town hall

## The men who went to prison for refusing to pay the newspaper tax

A TAX on newspapers? Perish the thought. Surely no credence can be given to any rumour that a government of the United Kingdom could ever contemplate taxing the provision of information and opinion about the nation and the world at large. That would be to turn the clock back by a century — about a century and a half, in fact. The government of the day imposed a tax on newspapers and aroused the ire of the general public as well as reformers. The first issue of the Manchester Guardian, 5. 10. 1835 bore the 4d Newspaper Stamp — the rusty "blood mark" — in the top right-hand corner. As a boy I heard the story which had become a family tradition of how my great-uncle, Abel Heywood, fell foul of the law by distributing The Poor Man's Guardian without paying the tax. As the paper cost only 1d., a 4d. tax was a serious burden. Although coffee rooms, beer

shops, and reading rooms made newspapers available to the ordinary man, or he could hire one from a newsagent for 1d. an hour, this did nothing for newspaper circulation or newspaper sellers' sales. The Poor Man's Guardian was a political newspaper, strongly anti-Whig and hardly less anti-Tory. It was the mouthpiece of Radical ideas which today would be termed Socialist, fostered by harsh treatment of workers by factory and mine owners, as well as by the government and the law. To be fair, however, some employers were active in trying to better the condition of their employees. Sir Robert Peel, who employed 15,000 hands, agitated for state control of who amounted to child slavery in factories, Robert Owen's New Lanark mills set up a working example of a better system of employment. There were reformers like Heywood, a newspaper distri-

butor and bookseller in Oldham Street, Manchester. As a matter of principle he refused to pay a tax which he considered unjust and against the public interest. This was a time when newspapers of all sorts were growing at a great rate and becoming increasingly urbanised. Both day schools and Sunday schools made the teaching of reading a first priority because of the stress placed upon reading the Bible. But children who learnt to read the Bible became adults who could also read newspapers and books. These were good times for those engaged in their production and distribution. The Poor Man's Guardian was a weekly. It bore a kind of badge featuring a printing

press and the slogans "Knowledge is Power" and "Liberty of the Press". Beneath the title of the paper was printed "For the people, published in defiance of the 'Law' to try the power of 'Right' against 'Might' — taxation without representation is tyranny to be resisted". Then, "Printed and Published by H. Hetherington, 13 Kingsgate Street, Holborn". In an article in the long defunct Everybody's Weekly (June 28, 1952) entitled Battle Of The Newspaper Tax, Francis Turnpenny outlined the work of Henry Hetherington. Born in 1772, in 1831 he was editing, printing, and publishing The Poor Man's Guardian. Printing and distribution were done secretly. Between prison sentences they made their money in disguise or lay low. In 1833 he started a second paper with crisis and emergency, and was indicted over both papers, fined £120

for the second, but acquitted by the jury over the first, which proclaimed in its next issue, "This paper, after sustaining a persecution of three years and a half duration, in which upwards of 500 persons were imprisoned for reading it, was declared in the Court of Exchequer to be a strictly legal publication. This meant that it was judged a political paper and not a newspaper liable to tax. Two years later the tax was reduced to 1d. and in 1856 removed. But to return to the story of my forbear, Abel Heywood. In March, 1832, he was summoned at the instance of the Commissioners of Stamps before Mr. Foster at the New Bailey and fined 54d for selling The Poor Man's Guardian without the Newspaper Stamp. Years afterwards he told the story in speeches to the Manchester City Council. "I would not pay the fine for it considered it unjust, and I was sent to the New Bailey

prison for four calendar months. I made efforts by memorial to the Secretary of State to avoid the penalty, but was not successful. My contention was that the paper was not a newspaper." He found the New Bailey "not fit for pigs to eat", and in a phrase which escaped prison censorship, he wrote, "I hope to see the day when all tyrants and unjust Governments will vanish out of existence before the moral and intellectual strength of the people." Abel Heywood's courage and determination in furthering a cause which he deemed just and worthy earned him high regard. He was made an alderman in 1877, became the Mayor of Manchester. Mr. A. J. P. Taylor, the historian, told me that "Manchester, though undeniably a City, adhered democratically to a simple Mayor and a simple Mayor was the year of Abel Heywood's

death, so he never became Lord Mayor. Manchester became a city in 1853, and as the unquestioned regional capital of this part of England, wished to have a town hall worthy of its position. The building is a magnificent example of Victorian civic architecture. There is a tale to tell of the opening of the new town hall. As I heard it in my family, Queen Victoria was invited to open the town hall and to stay at the residence of the Mayor, but she declined. In the event, the Mayor, Abel Heywood, opened the town hall himself with a key which was eventually passed on to his son, also named Abel, and from him to his grandson, George Basil Heywood, both of whom continued in the family business. I have a splendid, coloured invitation card of ornate and elaborate design, inviting William Heywood (Abel's brother) to attend the town hall ceremony on September 13, 1877.

The family believed that Queen Victoria refused the invitation because Abel Heywood had been in prison. While not denying that this may have entered into the decision, A. J. P. Taylor has attributed it also to Manchester City Council's having offended the Queen by erecting a statue to Oliver Cromwell. G. B. Heywood, contributing to a correspondence in the Daily Telegraph in 1938 on this matter, commented on his grandfather's unjust imprisonment. "This might have been regarded as a very good reason for making the Amende honorable, but at that time Queen Victoria... was not well advised. I believe that the reception given to my grandfather at the town hall left nothing to be desired." In 1888 Abel Heywood addressed the city council on his fifty years' municipal service. He said in 1891 he received the freedom of the city. Two years later he died, aged 83.

THOUGHTS OF MR. "YOU KNOW WHO" (With apologies to Chairman Mao Tse-Tung)

'THAT DOESN'T MEAN OF COURSE THAT THE POUND HERE IN BRITAIN — IN YOUR POCKET OR PURSE OR IN YOUR BANK — HAS BEEN DEVALUED.'

(Broadcast, 19th November, 1967.)

## Richard Kelly discovers that beer mats can be worth more than the beer

THERE was once a brewer on Tyneside called Jimmy Deuchar. He was famous for his Lokoide Ales, brought down to the North-East from Scotland. He was also famous for the cavalier way he treated his staff, who called him the Lokoide Monster. The other day a beer mat inscribed with his image and superscription changed hands for £50. If Jimmy had been alive today, he'd have had a fit.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, as Miss Austen might have said, that a pint of beer stands on a beer mat. What is less generally known is that the beer mat is sometimes more valuable than the beer. This is a truth revealed only to telegenologists (from the Latin leges, a mat; otherwise known as dripsomaniacs and organised in the one thousand strong British Beer Mat Collectors' Society (BBMS). Among their leading lights are David Walton and his wife of Chester-le-Street in County Durham.

In the same way that some households are geared to electronic gadgetry or labour-saving devices, the Waltons are geared to beer mats. Out go the pop records in the bedroom cupboard of Walton this. In come the beer's trays, some three thousand of them, the overspill consigned to the loft. Other homes insulate their roofs with fibre glass, the Waltons with beer mats.

For the sake of domestic harmony, telegenology is a hobby best pursued by man

and wife alike. Here is a cri de coeur from one distraught lady to her friend which found its way into the monthly bulletin of the society.

Dear Elsie — We have only just made up after the Welsh holiday. He spent the whole week making me ferry him round the pubs of some ridiculous brewery. I nearly got pneumonia sitting outside them with crisis and emergency. I was OK until we visited a place in the outback.

Well, I was busting and what do you know? All the doors had Welsh names on them. So I gritted my teeth and tried the first one only to find half the local rugby fifteen in it. I was so embarrassed. And then when we reached home I found he had thrown out all my Welsh dolls for his blasted beer mats.

Beer mats originated, not surprisingly, in Germany. In 1882 the first wood pulp drip mat was patented by Robert Sputh in Dresden. The first beer mats in the UK were issued by Watney's in 1922. Most mats are made from wood pulp, but they can be

made from any absorbent material such as foam plastic, cork or cellulose wadding. They come in every shape, size, and colour — one from Burt's brewery in the Isle of Wight being in the shape of a dog. The last year, a series called Failed Heroes about plans and projects that went awry. A set of six was envisaged. Only five appeared.

In the late 1960s the congenial, untruffled world of the collector was briefly shaken by the emergence of the political beer mat, target Harold Wilson. No one knows where they originated, though Conservative Central Office wouldn't be a bad guess. They were quickly snapped up and as quickly disappeared. On the front, Harold reclined in bathing trunks. On the back were printed the Thoughts of Mr You-Know-Who, for example a statement he made in a broadcast in 1967 after devaluation: "That doesn't mean of course that the pound here in Britain — in your pocket or purse or in your bank — has been devalued."

More recently, on the occasion of President Reagan's Bomb the Russians gaffe, the members of the Labour Club made a bonfire of beer mats from the Nottinghamshire brewery Mansfield which carried a picture of him.

When newly issued, mats cost less than a penny each. Once they become scarce it's a different matter. What's the highest price a mat has ever fetched, you ask? David Walton, who is the recipient of the society's highest award, the Gold Beer Mat (well, gold plated, actually). "We try to

scenes. Courage do freshwater fish and in collaboration with the Royal Society of Birds, endangered species. Tennants covered the World Cup Quad. But the oddest of all was a set of six called Failed Heroes about plans and projects that went awry. A set of six was envisaged. Only five appeared.

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keep that very much a secret", he said, "so as not to fuel inflation". After making me take an oath of secrecy he told me the amount I am permitted to reveal is only that it runs into three figures.

So what makes a beer mat valuable? First, and obviously, its rarity. Anything pre-war is now at a premium. David Walton has a hundred of them, which places him fifth in the league table; his first pre-war purchase was a mat issued by George's, the Bristol brewery later taken over by one of the Big Six. Short runs are also much sought after, as are mats belonging to brewhouses, pubs which brew their own beer on the premises like the Dog and Parrot in Newcastle which won the Beer Mat of the Year Award in 1983 (the current holder is Flowers).

What are not sought after, surprisingly, are misprints. The big difference between ourselves and stamp collectors is that misprints are thrown in the bin", says David Walton. "The value decreases if it's a misprint

Society Membership: 68 Fenton Close, Walbridge Park, Chester-le-Street DH2 3JD.







IT'S AN EXTRA pleasure to register a sensational event when it happens at a quiet picnic spot in a champagne by a brook rushing down rocks in mountainous country, exactly the Cascadé de Pissier in the Bauges—the heart of Savoie.

I was seated with my book in my lap while all sorts of butterfly—bryntones, blues, orange tips, white admirals, Lesser Purple Emperors and sundry Other Ranks—browsed in the moss or performed aerobatics in the cool air that came off the pool below the falls, when a flash Frillfly settled on the page.

Anticlimax? you protest, small war, there's nothing remarkable in that. But wait. For the book was David Carter's Butterflies and Moths in Britain and Europe, open at page 90, and my Nymphalid guest, positioned himself exactly over his own image, which is why I identified him so accurately. I leave it to real lepidopterists to decide whether he knew what he was doing, and the odds on a similar coup with any other species in the book.

Like the butterflies, tourists in Savoie become very excited by the rich spread of wildflowers. Late July was a week or so too early for the Festival of Cyclamens, but the Alpine pastures were a floral extravaganza. I mean, it's a real anarchy. And being a territory of earnest, earnest walkers, they're left to sprout in peace, with the exception of the big yellow gentians, which are cropped by the locals to make that four drink, smelling of vapor rub, called Suse.

The hub for this was Le Chatelet, a micro resort developed on a ridge, roughly dividing Upper from Lower Savoie. Between the garage at one end, terminus for the local bus service, and the fort and church at the other, the same Savoyard families, a mere 500 villagers sustain everything needed to make life convenient and pleasant.

## Alex Hamilton reports on a rural gîte holiday among lakes and mountains

# Savoie fair

Le Chatelet en Buge, Savoie—picture by Alex Hamilton

butcher, baker and candlestick maker, park, playground, bank, post office, a Logis de France (free drink from the lake on his birthday), supermarket with parking, three restaurants (over the fondue de lake before, youth hostel, museum, tourist bureau and public conveniences (note plural).

Swimming pool? Ah, no, not exactly, but there is quite near, adjacent to a rally road track and a riding stables, a plan d'eau en très bon état, cold, eau de source, with islands and changing rooms and rough tables for the rules of the game, muddy bottom, squiggles repulsively up between the toes, but which is for all its unsavoury aspects, wildly popular with hordes of children.

The one amazing flaw in the whole scheme is that in an area where you can't go anywhere without beautiful views, you can't get a decent postcard. But, as I said, Le Chatelet is a hub, and you solve the problem in Anney, to the lake beyond, in Chambéry, a roughly equidistant. There they know about postcards, comic, pastoral, historical, sentimental, three-dimensional, yes indeed.

Of the three, Anney is the most knowing. The Steamboat Company has the trade on the lake pretty well sewn up, with glass-sided, floating restaurants and a flotilla of lesser vessels. In the old town restaurants are cheek-by-jowl all the way alongside the river on both sides, and the flower production of Savoie bedocks the streets, and camouflages the rustier bits of the canal, the old prison, the palace etc.

It quite rightly capitalises on these assets, and reminds me of Sarlat in Dordogne, but in the same way one more degree of primped-up ancient ugliness, costliness, round popular signs and permanent commercialisation, and it would be over the edge.

It has more than its share of Frankenstein shops—if you want to shop seriously go into the main section—but on the other hand the atmosphere is young and lively, the lake teams with little boats, and the French, who should know, obviously agree.

The road that goes round the lake periodically, in Chambéry, has an arm to the shore, festooned with campings and

mooring quays and people spread like polished shrimps on the grassy edges. We spent a day at one of these called Verrier and though the air reeked of tanning oil and the icy water was a penance, it was more interesting than a coastal beach.

There was the rare sight of Frenchmen playing boules on a better than they'd play cricket, and frisbees whizzing above topsless imperturbables and people painting the mountains. One lakeside painter had his day's work suddenly ruined by a wave from a boat and swore he'd never paint again. Sell it as it is, smears and all, and title it "Foutre" I urged him. This seemed to recall him from the brink of suicide and I had that glow that comes from a good deed on foreign soil.

Aix-les-Bains, also by a large lake, being a spa centre from Roman times for people with aches and pains, has a totally different clientele, and cannot be expected to be buzzing with energy, a place of bent backs and some folding chairs, are about par for the course, but locations can be pretty idyllic. Tignes, OSI and Meon have a good choice.

In Portugal, the Algarve has a steady stream of regulars who book year after year with the Travel Club of Eximinter. Good value, excellent beaches and lots of inexpensive restaurants.

All the large operators offer Spain, including Meon who include a car in the holiday price. Villas can be pretty luxurious there, with private pools and maids. In Scandinavia, Longship Holidays offer log cabins, summerhouses, modern chalets and farms in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Norway and Finland. You take your own car and choose

from large holiday complexes with their own playgrounds, restaurants etc, or individual properties deep in the countryside.

Ireland offers castles. A number of them have rooms they let out although you have to negotiate direct with the owners. Examples are Lismore Castle in County Waterford, the Irish home of the Duke of Devonshire, and 13th-century Kilmore Castle in County Wexford. (Details from the Irish Tourist Board.)

It's possible to self-cater in the Caribbean, and tempting too, from face value of the brochures. But food is very expensive there and a hotel-based holiday would probably cost less. If you do want to do it, villas are often very luxurious and come with their own cooks, gardeners and live-in maids. Operators include Caribbean Connection, Jetset Faraway and Speedbird Worldwide.

Reading a self-catering brochure is sometimes difficult. "Villas" need not mean a detached property but could be part of a house divided up into different units. "Studio" usually means one room with cooking facilities in the corner. And "ideals" often means two bedrooms and a put-up in the lounge.

If you do want privacy, check that the complex isn't part of a huge complex—the brochure doesn't always say. Check too, how far you'll be from the nearest shop (breakfast rolls, village (outings), beach and restaurant. And that things will be open at the time of year you're visiting.

If you take your own car, it's tempting to pack too much in the way of food and equipment. Find out first what's included, then pack what's not included, then pack what's included, then pack what's not included.

I'm not sure if that's true, but we did find Chambéry, a fairly nasty pink fluid with the appearance and consistency of nail polish.

It's hard to think of any French countryside as a model of artless simplicity, but one does get a glimmer of how Rousseau conceived his noble savage, from the exceptionally outgoing courtesy of the Savoyards, especially when contrasted with the savage noble of his day. This is even paralleled by the docility of the cows, surely the least intimidating cattle ever to be met with loose on a range.

In the centre of the triangle, then, is Le Chatelet, not worth a visit, but well worth a look, looking south west from its ledge at Rousseau, the mountain in the picture. With a rug of conifer about its shoulders, the village has farms and the school in its lap, so to speak, and the ground at its knees falls away suddenly into a deep fissure, where the river Cheran rushes along over stones.

The configuration is repeated on the other side, but with a Savoie departmental rural gîte at the top, divided into four apartments, each

adequate for a family of four: living room combined with kitchen, bedroom, bunkroom and toilet. It's on the land of the farmer who manages it, and who comes by daily with churns to collect his milk yield from the adjacent cooling shed. There's little noise except the moiling river and the occasional meowing of buzzards.

We secured this gîte through the McCarta publication French Farm and Village Holiday Guide. McCarta also supply maps designed for walkers, giving an instant idea of the long and the short options, Grande Randonnée

connections, rates of ascent and so forth, which are much more to the purpose than Ordnance, and we found them invaluable, starting at about 2,500 feet and taking trails round and about the folds up to about 6,000, with Mont Blanc on the far horizon. The whole area, dotted with hamlets of wooden houses with far-jutting eaves, is thoroughly waymarked and positively insists you walk it. The mountains don't crowd you, there's ample valley between them. You don't feel like an insect; there's a great sense of ease.

THE 1985 French Farm and Village Holiday Guide, published by McCarta Ltd, is available from McCarta Ltd, 122 Kings Cross Road, London WC1, from all good bookshops, or by mail order from Holiday Guides Ltd, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Seedhill, Paisley PA1 1JN for £4.75 plus 55p p & p. The guide features 25 gîtes in Savoie and gives useful information and addresses to those wishing to rent one of several other gîtes available. Sample price: A gîte for seven people at St. Barthélemy du Gué, low season, cost between 575 and 1,150 francs for 1 week.

Maps: 1:50,000 walking map of Savoie published by Didier Richier, £5.75. The French National Geographical Institute produce many maps of Savoie, £4.50, and the French Ramblers Club publish several Topo-guides, available from McCarta who will also supply, on request, a list of maps available of Savoie, or any other region.

## Freedom of the range Susan Grossman surveys the increasing scale of self-catering options in Europe

THIS YEAR more people will choose self-catering holidays than ever. Certainly they represent good value at a time of big increases in most hotel-based packages. For many families, fed up with the restrictions of hotels, they are the only sensible answer to most children's anti-social behaviour and highly selective appetites.

Self-catering doesn't have to mean slaving to produce three meals a day. People eat out much of the time, experiment with local food and generally use the kitchen just for snacks or heating up infants' milk in the middle of the night. Self-catering is the

freedom to do what you like when you like.

Virtually every large tour operator offers self-catering holidays by air. Most ferry companies offer them by sea, and your own car, too. Since the price depends on the size of the property, the more that travel together the cheaper the cost per head, though don't be tempted to cram too many into your car for a long, hot journey. For the biggest choice, study the brochures of OSI, Meon, Thomas Cook, American Express and Thomas. But there are plenty of smaller operators, too, with unusual properties in out-of-the-way places.

The choice is enormous, from castles in Ireland to farmhouses in France, log cabins in Sweden to luxury villas in the Caribbean. They come with and without maids, cars, cutlery, bed linen, washing machines, and their own private swimming pools. Your holiday home might be part of a vast complex of a thousand or more similar facilities: in the grounds of an hotel (useful if you want a bar, restaurant, pool, etc, plus a kitchen sink) or in a quiet, isolated spot, miles from anywhere.

If you want something totally private, making your own way, Interhome is the largest letting agency in Europe, with more than 15,000 holiday homes in 30 countries on their books. Prices start from as little as £12 per person for a week for a flat in the South of France. They reckon that, unlike hotel prices abroad, self-catering prices have increased by around 5 per cent, last year. If you tell them which country you want to visit they will send you a thick catalogue (685 Richmond Road, Twickenham, 01-891 1284).

You can also buy Private Villas, a magazine sold in newsagents (£1.30), in which property owners advertise. You contact them direct. And, as with Interhome, make your own way.

When choosing a country it is worth taking into account the cost of local food and restaurant meals. Cheapest countries for self-catering are Yugoslavia and Portugal. Most expensive is the Caribbean, where everything is imported from the States. Properties vary considerably, too, from country to

country. In Italy you can rent lovely old village houses, farms, and grand country mansions with wonderful views. In inland regions like Tuscany, Chianti, and Umbria, operators include: Magic of Italy, American Express (The Villa Book), and Vacanze in Italia (Bignori, nr. Pulborough, W. Sussex, Tel. 0787 5681).

France offers self-catering in glens, converted farm buildings, village houses, even apartments in chateaux. Most are in inland rural areas where you quickly become part of village life. Brittany has a steady stream of regulars. Operators include: Caribbean Connection, Jetset Faraway and Speedbird Worldwide.

Reading a self-catering brochure is sometimes difficult. "Villas" need not mean a detached property but could be part of a house divided up into different units. "Studio" usually means one room with cooking facilities in the corner. And "ideals" often means two bedrooms and a put-up in the lounge.

If you do want privacy, check that the complex isn't part of a huge complex—the brochure doesn't always say. Check too, how far you'll be from the nearest shop (breakfast rolls, village (outings), beach and restaurant. And that things will be open at the time of year you're visiting.

from large holiday complexes with their own playgrounds, restaurants etc, or individual properties deep in the countryside.

Ireland offers castles. A number of them have rooms they let out although you have to negotiate direct with the owners. Examples are Lismore Castle in County Waterford, the Irish home of the Duke of Devonshire, and 13th-century Kilmore Castle in County Wexford. (Details from the Irish Tourist Board.)

It's possible to self-cater in the Caribbean, and tempting too, from face value of the brochures. But food is very expensive there and a hotel-based holiday would probably cost less. If you do want to do it, villas are often very luxurious and come with their own cooks, gardeners and live-in maids. Operators include Caribbean Connection, Jetset Faraway and Speedbird Worldwide.

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## WEEK-END ARTS

WHEN Colin Welland held aloft the Oscar he won for his screenplay of *Chariots of Fire* three years ago and belatedly: "The British are coming," he spoke truer than he knew.

Once again, for the fourth year in succession, the Oscar nominations look like a best fit night for British film industry half murdered by sloth on its own shores and badly in need of some charity abroad.

But, of course, the Americans don't see it as charity. The transatlantic love affair with British films has reached epic proportions, and shows no signs of abating. Eleven nominations for David Lean's *A Passage to India* and seven for David Putnam and Roland Joffé's *The Killing Fields*. What's next? Well, nominations for Sir Ralph Richardson in *Greystoke*, Albert Finney in *Under the Volcano* and Vanessa Redgrave in *The Bostonians* for good measure.

Why has all this happened? And what have we done to deserve it? In hindsight, it all looks very simple. The American cinema is bankrupt, at least in ideas. And what is more damaging, it has largely lost the art of story-telling as an effective means of covering up that fact.

Financially it is doing all right. But it can't tell an inspirational tale any more like *Chariots of Fire* or *Gandhi* did, without relapsing into blatant sentimentality. (Terms of Endearment, Kramer vs. Kramer, Rip-Roaring Bandits (Indiana Jones). It knows very well how to satisfy the youth market (Porky's, Beverly Hills Cop, etc) but not how to be "significant," even in Hollywood.

The British, on the other hand, if they can't persuade their own Government to adopt a decent film policy nor revive the flaming desire of their own public to go to the cinema, they have the middle-aged and middle-brow tears of joy at the survival of the American.

The American nominations are very significant. Look down the Best Actress list,

With the film industry under siege at home, Derek Malcolm reflects on how, once again, our films lead the field in nominations for Academy Awards

## A rally round the British standard

Dame Peggy Ashcroft in *A Passage to India*

always very close to their hearts, and you will find three performances in three films, each of which tries to get back to basics. Country, Places in the Heart and The River are really the same story, illustrated by Jessica Lange, Sally Field and Sissy Spacek about the country roots of Americans — Heimat without analysis, in fact.

The American craze for British actors and actresses is, of course, well-known. Yet there is something almost comic about the sudden emergence of a marvellous

veteran like Peggy Ashcroft, totally unknown to American film-goers and television viewers, but now the rage for her performances in *A Passage to India* and *Jewel in the Crown*. At least she must be laughing after decades of superb effort.

As a betting man, I'd place a substantial sum on Dame Peggy winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar and another wily, old-timer, David Lean, getting the best director award for the third time in his badly-interrupted career. Which other country in the

world, save our benighted island, would actively prevent such a superb craftsman making a film for 18 years, until he was 78 and presumably harmless? But I'm not so sure about *A Passage to India* getting Best Film with Milos Forman's *Amadeus*, the very epitome of middlebrow culture, also in the lists (and also with 11 nominations).

The *Killing Fields* is a bit of a problem, though a better film than *Chariots of Fire*. Academicians are patriots to the core and I'm not sure they'll much like what

it says about American policy in South East Asia. One hopes to be proved wrong, but I can't see a lot going for it, though one should never underestimate a David Putnam publicity drive at the last moment. The books are coming!

I can't think who'll get the Best Actor prize. But it should not be Albert Finney for *Under the Volcano*, a kind of wet run for *The Dresser*, in which he was much better. Nor Tom Hulce as an Americanised Mozart, though sillier things have happened.

What makes prophecy both difficult and fruitless is the fact that the voters, because they don't know any of the awards when they mark their papers, tend to herd the Oscars together in one pen. *Chariots of Fire* and *Gandhi* were prime examples of this, and it could be the same this year. But Britain will be exceedingly unlucky not to get a handful, one way or another, which should prove the best possible advertisement for British Film Year.

The British Film Year organisers, short of money and frequently unable to

break through the impenetrable cynicism of Wardour Street, which doesn't give a damn about home product with stuff like *Ghostbusters*, *Gremlins* and *Beverly Hills Cop* around, could well reach their target of 4 per cent more on home cinema attendances. But if they succeed we'll all know why. It won't be *A Passage to India*, or *The Killing Fields* which, at just the latest series of low-brow American box-office champions.

Meanwhile the resurgence of British film-making, which isn't restricted to the typically well put together products that Hollywood likes, but has the stylish and very un-British *A Company of Wolves*, *Brazil* and 1984 to its credit too, could peter out like it did in the Sixties. At that time the Americans, lusting after *Swinging London*, burnt their fingers and pulled out. Now, our own government, lusting after private business enterprise, looks like "liberating" British film-makers from the tax shelter allowances and other supports which have made the last few years merely difficult rather than virtually impossible.

We are not in a good state to capitalise on Hollywood's fondness for us. Could the British actually be coming and going at roughly the same time?

Isn't it a strange series of events indeed that has given us an historic run of probably unrepeatable Oscar success where government which couldn't apparently care less, and audiences who are turning their back on the commercial cinema in droves? This week, on another depressing tack, Screen International, the UK trade weekly, had the following headline on its front page: "US films dominate 1984 UK top 20."

The four British films which got into the frame were *Greystoke*, *Never Again*, *Educating Rita*, *Greystoke* and *The Company of Wolves*. Even if the American Academy comes up trumps, will there be any more this year? I doubt it. Whatever the world thinks of us, we don't appear to think much of ourselves.

## Highlights of next week's TV and radio

## Monday

The Road To Gdansk (C4, 9.0). Most of the films in Channel 4's current Polish season relate to dissident movements in the country since the last war. This worthy, but rather taxing documentary sets them in a historical context using archive film and interviews with Solidarity activists — including Lech Walesa — and spokesmen for the current and 1956 Polish governments, writers and intellectuals. Successive protest movements, they agree, have been directed not against the constitution or the Warsaw Pact but against failed economic policies and the perversion of the revolution. (C4, 5.30). A Computer, a Cat, a Computer, a Cat (C4, 5.30). Home computer users, it seems, have an insatiable appetite for software. This new series, aimed at serious operators, will provide it together with information on how to "download" programs from the screen and from a telephone. In tonight's programme, rival makes of computer are put to the test.

## Tuesday

Inside Out (BBC2, 9.0). Two out of work ex-cons — an erstwhile cocaine smuggler and a Polish prostitute — set up an employment agency. Their clients are no-hopers from prison gates and street corners. Window cleaner? They suggest to someone who wants "to wipe the slate clean." Unusually hip and youthful, but a little wobbly in execution.

Television (ITV, 9.0). New 13-part series, *Visions of Power*, a dramatic collage of the history of the 20th century, and succeeding in making you want to chuck your set out of the window. The opening episode, *Visions of Power*, is a frantic collage of the history of the 20th century, and succeeding in making you want to chuck your set out of the window. The opening episode, *Visions of Power*, is a frantic collage of the history of the 20th century, and succeeding in making you want to chuck your set out of the window.

## Wednesday

Esby Searchers (BBC1, 9.25). Whatever you may think of childless Western couples who adopt Third World babies, you can't help but be moved and impressed by the case of Tooting green-grocers, Ray and Susan Kelly. They spent their £7,000 savings on a trip to Brazil to find a family in the slums and orphanage of Sao Paulo. This *Real Lives* documentary really does seem to have a happy ending. The Two Ronnies (BBC1, 8.10). Barker and Corbett return with the mixture as before. Elaine Page is the guest singer and Susan Bullard, a black and white patch of Hollywood in the Forties, is the special feature.

## Thursday

Love Story (BBC2, 9.30). This glutinous dollop of romance, courtesy of Forty Minutes, is television's celebration of Valentine's Day. Two couples describe the love that makes "everything different," expressed in poems sent to a radio station and a tender but hilarious letter.

## Friday

The Cosby Show (C4, 9.0). Is this the same Bill Cosby who used to seat John Cochrane's sax solos in Harlem? This imported sitcom is deeply sentimental, thoroughly middle-class and, if it is to be said, pretty funny. Cosby plays an obstetrician with a lawyer wife and four sassy children. Tonight's episode concerns a death in the family — Rudy's goldfish.

Helen Oldfield

## Radio

Today: *Cloris in the Country* (Radio 4, 2 p.m.). Repeat of the David Spenser production of *Saki's Cloris in the Country*, the fore-runner of black comedy. *Black English Literature* (Radio 3, 7.20 p.m.). Talk by Indian writer Prabhu S. Gupta about the post-war literature from the Commonwealth and from black writers in this country. Tomorrow: *Just Gossiping* (Radio 2, 5.30 p.m.). Repeat of Lewis Wolpert's conversation with Nobel Prize winner Francis Crick and his abiding fascination with science. Monday: *The Friend of the Family* (Radio 4, 8.15 p.m.). Not as in The Radio Times, instead a repeat of the adaptation of Dostoevsky's story of the former servant's interference with the family marriage plans. With Clive Merrison and David Suchet.

Tuesday: *Learn to be Blind* (Radio 4, 4 p.m.). The story of St Dunstan's, the brainchild of Sir Arthur Pearson, founder of the Daily Express and blind himself. Wednesday: *A Month in the Country* (Radio 3, 7 p.m.). Repeat of Isaac Berlin's translation of Turgenev, with a delightful cast led by Margaret O'Brien. Analysis: *The vanishing Mandarins* (Radio 4, 8.45 p.m.). Friday: *The Week in Synod* (Radio 4, 8.45 p.m.). Report by Religious Affairs Correspondent Rosemary Hartill on the theological and other debates in the General Synod.

Val Arnold-Forster

## TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

## Nature

UNDER the shaggy, purbled image of the Old English sheep dog, they say, is a bright lively animal that would very much like to get to the barber's. Tail docked, hair all over the place like a torch slinger on all fours, it has been deprived of every form of signal it would normally use to tell the rest of the world what's going on in there: rudder, eyes, hackles, all invisible.

## NATURE THEATRE

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## The formula isn't really very complicated

About the only thing the Prime Minister, Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Ian MacGregor and Mr Peter McNestry of Nacods have in common is their desire to blur still further the edges of a thoroughly sensible but distinctly pragmatic deal negotiated last autumn between the overmen and the coal board. That agreement which, it is claimed, is on offer to the Mineworkers and could bring an end to the pit dispute tomorrow, provides for an independent but non-binding review of planned pit closures. Yet Mrs Thatcher now appears to read the deal as a licence, rubber stamped by the union, under which the board can close down each and every pit which Mr MacGregor identifies as uneconomic. "You have to go through a procedure... and they have to be shut down" as the Prime Minister commented resolutely on TV Eye. Triumph for management's right to manage? Collapse of stout overmen? Well, yes. But only if you regard the agreement as a totally cynical exercise designed to save Mr McNestry's face whilst giving the board *carte blanche* to eliminate the state subsidy to coal within three years as instructed by the Prime Minister.

All of which is a long, long way from the board's stated position of last October. Then it accepted that the judgments of the tribunal, with its independent chairman, would be given "due weight." Mr McNestry is infuriated by the belated suggestion from the board (and the Prime Minister on television) that recommendations to keep threatened pits open — either on social cost grounds or because the tribunal felt the board had got its sums wrong — would be systematically torn up and deposited down some abandoned pit shaft. He would regard that as a straightforward breach of trust. He has reason to do so. But he has no reason to suggest that either side is morally bound by the terms of the agreement to accept all judgment. Nacods, as much as the NCB, wanted to steer clear of solemn and binding declarations. Mr McNestry preferred a deal under which you could reserve your position and keep your powder dry. That is the deal which the parties have and which the NCB, hand on heart, says is still "fair and binding."

Taken at face value and with a minimal degree of trust, the Nacods deal still remains the best basis on which to settle a strike which has run too long and with too much pride and prejudice on both sides. Consider the advantages: management retains its ultimate right to manage and the unions retain their right to oppose pit closures. Both sides can argue every case at the planned tribunal. The tribunal produces its (non-binding) decision — publicly, loudly, with evidence. Management remains free to ignore its decision — just as the unions are free to register dissent or, indeed, to strike. But, in the real world, a coherent decision, backed by a powerful and independent chairman, carries considerable clout. Automatic opposition to tribunal decisions by either side would gain short shrift from public opinion or from Parliament. It is a formula which would put uneconomic pits on the agenda but which would also call coal board accounting into question and would also introduce social costs for the first time. As such it is not a formula which would easily commend itself either to Mr Scargill or to Mr MacGregor. But it is worthy of examination by those on the NUM executive and at Hobar House who remain genuinely interested in an honourable compromise which embraces the rational long term interests of a basic national industry.

## America's two sorts of friends

Although the United States does not show any immediate anxiety to reinvest itself in the Middle East, a series of decisions will soon be needed which will determine whether the Reagan initiative for the West Bank is still a live proposition, intended to bridge the Israeli and Arab positions, or merely an interesting historical document. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is due at the White House on Monday. He has anxieties other than the West Bank deadlock, in particular the possibility of trouble from Iran, and will be hoping for American support in its traditional form: to wit, weapons. The administration has suddenly chosen to put an embargo on weapons sales to the Middle East, presumably while it determines how much it can persuade a Congress heavily influenced by Israel to accept.

The extraordinary liberality towards Israel (Mr Rabin has won a military aid grant of 1.8 billion dollars for the next financial year) contrasts with the close inspection given to Arab requests, even when they come from such staunch supporters of the US as the Saudis, Egypt, and Jordan. Those countries are aware of, and have to accept, the long-standing American policy of ensuring that Israel maintains a military edge over any possible combination of opponents, but they legitimately ask what is the reciprocal side of this arrangement. Is it not supposed also to encourage Israel into a peace process which will liberate the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians?

If the US were at the start of a new administration, a period of reassessment would be expected, but all the necessary analytical work has been done during Mr Reagan's first term. He himself undertook to resume the initiative if re-elected, but for the time being the US appears to have entered on a phase in which it waits for the Arab states to come up with an initiative of their own. If this means that a coalition of Arabs — President Mubarak, King Hussein, Mr Yasser Arafat, and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq when he can spare the time — should stop swapping delphic hypotheses and get down to the brass tacks of negotiation then that would certainly be a very welcome development. Arab factionalism, and the consequent reluctance of the more peaceable leaders to say what they really mean has been and remains a serious handicap. But having launched its own proposals, the US is under some obligation to see them through, starting in Jerusalem.

Egypt as well as Israel receives large subventions from the United States, and is still in the market for more military assistance. A document presented by Egypt to the State Department recently set out in detail the strategic asset which that country deems itself to be. Jordan has already turned to the Soviet Union for weaponry because of the opposition in Congress to the supply of anti-aircraft missiles. The Saudis would find it traumatic to do the same. It is legitimate for the State Department to make a tally of the arsenals which are already in place in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia's defence budget is the size of Britain's) and ask how much more is genuinely necessary. There is everything to be said for strict limits on supplies not only from the United States and the Soviet Union but from Western Europe as well. The number of dead, running to at least six figures, in the bootless Gulf War is testimony to that. But until the most pressing problem of the Palestinians' future is tackled the *cassus belli* remains and the Arabs can point to ask why Israel should receive preferential treatment against America's other friends in the region.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Miscellany at Molesworth

Sir, — Having been kept secret for five months in the master-bedroom cupboard, the flask jacket emerged in triumph — through the fog, no less — well after those fearfully unnamed campers had been routed by an assault force of only 24:1.

It is right to be cautious. A flask jacket can't afford to lose such a subtle strategist. Besides, if it stuck to the ratio of 3:1, normally regarded as sufficient for battlefield assault troops, it would have had only 450 men to give orders to; hardly enough to make a flask jacket feel really important. — Yours faithfully, David Halliwell, London NW6.

Sir, — If ever we needed it, we have it on your front page of February 7: a picture of one of the "enemy within," all dressed up to play his part, visiting down the slinky freedoms of our society.

How much longer, I wonder, are we going to stand by and see the civil rights of British people trampled into the earth while Michael Heseltine, dressed up as a soldier-boy, plays out his aggressions with the massive support of the military? — Yours faithfully, Rosemary Milne, Edinburgh.

Sir, — It was a jolly good try by those bright boys and girls in the 10 Downing Street press office to get Herself on the Libyan hostages bandwagon, and it was rotten of the archbishop to prevent yet another triumph being claimed by Our Great Leader.

But never mind. After her wonderful victory at Molesworth, surely they can arrange a victory parade through the streets for all those gallant boys from the army and police who took part, and she can be there to take the salute. — Yours, Judith Cook, Newlyn, Cornwall.

Sir, — May we now hope that Mr Michael Heseltine will be awarded an Oscar for his part in "1984"? Yours sincerely, J. D. Marshall, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

### Petering on

Sir, — I am always intrigued by the way in which Peter Mullen is described in your Grassroots pages on Saturdays as "a Yorkshire vicar." An ordinary Yorkshire vicar? Hardly. A well-known writer, journalist, and ecclesiastical controversialist.

But, of course, it suits the particular game Peter Mullen likes to play to be so described, for his speciality is to masquerade as an ordinary down-to-earth believer, geared up to knock some common sense into the doyens of what he calls the "ice and lemon world of liberal theology." It would not do if he turned out to be not so ordinary himself.

Mr Mullen accuses Bishop Jenkins of not having read Augustine: a fatuous comment; not to follow Augustine's views on the two kingdoms does not mean that one has not "read" them. But has he himself read Nietzsche, with whose name he likes to juggle?

His outpourings on those he chooses as his theological adversaries bear all too clearly the marks of the resentment of the ordinary against the outstanding, which Nietzsche so brilliantly described. It is clear, for instance, that before Don Cupitt had uttered a word on television, that word was condemned as worthless because of the "gentle world" which the "degen inhabits at Emmanuel College." But Don Cupitt has clearly managed it — and it is quite a feat — to make some of the developments of modern theology both intelligible and interesting to many people, ordinary and perhaps not so ordinary. That, at least, is my experience in this parish (is the Suffolk countryside sufficiently down-to-earth?).

Peter (Rev) Mullen is all too ready to sink to personal abuse. How does he actually know whether or not Don Cupitt or other theologians have been "within a Sabbath day's journey of the roots that clutch"? I suggest he reads Kierkegaard on the incognito of faith. Who can penetrate behind the mask of another's faith?

Because our world contains much that is morally repellent, it does not follow that the doctrines of the Church have to be cast in the same morally repellent mould. — Yours sincerely, (Rev Dr) George Pattison, Badwell Ash Rectory, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Sir, — Peter Mullen's lampooning of David Jenkins was so blatantly untrue as to suggest either that he is theologically illiterate or quite unscrupulous. Mr Mullen has told us ad nauseam what he is against. Will he now tell us what he is for? (Rev.) N. G. Richardson, 17 Northover Road, Bristol.

Apologies to the Rev Donald G. Donegan, the last three letters of whose name were dropped in yesterday's Letters column. — Ed.

## Mobilising teachers' mass moderation

Sir, — The teachers elected to fight a pay campaign last year when talks about restructuring were already under way. I believed then, and still hold, that last year's struggle was counter-productive.

We are not a profession that wields its muscle to great effect. We need to carry our strength for short sharp blows, carefully timed and with clearly defined targets.

We have now succeeded in arming the opposition. They have learned how to deal with the question resulting from the withdrawal of good-will. They have even turned our argument about putting in 20 extra hours a week against us by "acknowledging" that all of the duties of a teacher cannot be "undertaken in the length of a school day". Hence these extra hours become contractual as part of our broader duty "to educate children in accordance with their age, aptitude, etc." and are therefore subject to loss of pay if withdrawn.

Furthermore they have discovered that arbitration is now part of their armour and not ours. They also know that teachers involved in industrial action gain little public support and often create extra work for the local education officer, but for the heads and deputies in the schools.

This Government almost enjoys a stand-off confrontation with those of opposite conviction — viz. Argentina and Arthur — and has a good ring record against them. It has shown itself vulnerable, however, to the forces of mass moderation (university grants) and it is significant that some of its most uncomfortable moments have occurred when faced by disapproval from the left wing of its own party.

Teacher unions must, therefore, come united to the negotiation table with a carefully formulated and reasonable policy, and command widespread public support, and be prepared to discuss issues of restructuring and assessment along with pay.

Why allow the Government and the employers the opportunity to fight on their terms, branding the teachers as unreasonable, militant and even unpatriotic. The Devil must not have all the good tunes. — Yours, John Player, Grange Farm Cottage, Stowupland, Suffolk.

Sir, — A headmaster of my acquaintance recently contrived a much-needed redecoration of his school. He did it by running bingo sessions. A former student of mine found that his sister, aged 19, earned more at the commencement of her training for the police force than he did after six years as a teacher.

Another teacher I know decided he could no longer keep his wife and children on his salary, so he resigned and was better off on the dole. However, he secured a post as a trainee manager for an insurance firm and immediately found himself in receipt of a salary worth £2,000 a year more than the one he had received as a teacher.

Comment would appear to be superfluous. — Yours, etc. (Dr) E. Goodman, Tividale, Ellington, Northumberland.

Sir, — In the hope that Mr Will Messenger might prefer reality to illusion, may I venture to correct his letter to you (February 6).

It is entirely untrue that during the 1984 salary negotiations I offered "regular insults about the status and value of teachers." Nor did I argue at the arbitration hearing that "teachers lacked the commitment to their work." All that was said both at the Burnham negotiations and at the arbitration is a matter of fact: Mr Messenger will read the verbatim in vain to find any

such "insults." On the contrary, he would find repeated reference to the employers' commitment to the reform of the teachers' career structure, to bring reward to professionalism and commitment.

It is true that — for what I can only conclude are tactical reasons — the teachers' leaders have frequently asserted that such insults were offered, and I can understand Mr Messenger having been convinced by simple repetition. The truth is that, as partners in the education service, we have an opportunity through the structure talks to bring new hope and motivation to dedicated teachers.

I still profoundly hope that we will not cast that opportunity aside in favour of sterile confrontation. — Yours faithfully, Philip Merridale, Chairman, Burnham Primary and Secondary Committee Management Panel, Winchester, Hampshire.

The lesson of Grunwick

Sir, — John Torode (Financial Guardian, February 4) invites us "to think of the riots at Grunwick with a scheme (a union recognition procedure) would have avoided."

Ok. What about a scheme whereby a union, refusing to bargain in good faith, could trigger an inquiry, by an independent body — say Acas — which would find out whether the workers wanted collective bargaining, and then declare whether or not the union should be recognised? Surely employers and unions would abide by such an obviously fair procedure?

But of course this was the procedure at the time of the riots at Grunwick. Mr Torode is wrong in saying the unions refused a recognition procedure in the 1970s. But these sections provided no effective sanctions. In practice, employers could be forced to pay union rates but not to recognise unions. Hence sections 11 to 16 of the Employment Protection Act, 1976, repealed in 1980.

The problem was not an absence of a legal procedure, but the fact that, faced with an unco-operative employer, Acas could do little.

Assuming he hasn't just forgotten this fact, is Mr Torode suggesting that what we need is a procedure which forces employers to co-operate and forces them to bargain? If Acas says so? Can such a procedure be devised?

A key question is what sanctions should be imposed on employers who do not accept democratic decisions: penal damages, fines, arbitration on terms and conditions? The last-mentioned would be a sanction under the procedure, rather than offering ready-made solutions.

Perhaps Mr Torode's assumption is that only a minority of employers at Grunwick-type situations would vote for the union, and so the penalties would be against the workers who continued to press for recognition. But, as his own example of the Royal National Institute for the Blind shows, a lot of workers will join the union after it is recognised, so head counting union members is not enough.

Employers, however, object to their employees being asked: "Would you join the union if recognised?" And what level of support would be enough? A simple majority? Less? More? Closed-shop ballots require 80 per cent support.

The question Mr Torode raises is an important one: that of the freedom of association does require that, having associated, workers should be entitled to representation in bargaining by their union. But if the issue of union recognition is placed on the agenda, as Mr Torode predicts, it is essential that the parties to those talks do not follow his lead in ignoring valuable British experience. — Yours, Linda Dickens, School of Industrial and Business Studies, University of Warwick.

## Why Sir Peter should give them hell

Sir, — The National Theatre has just had a severe financial restriction imposed. May I suggest that the measures Sir Peter Hall intends to take (Guardian, February 8), as a result of this, are a mistake.

The National Theatre, since its inception, has been a recognition of the value of the establishment: an establishment that does not have any real understanding of, or concern for, the absolute cultural necessity of a vigorous and truthful contemporary art. Rather than expressing a real vision of Britain today, the National has become a theatre of the international past. It is now paying the price.

The establishment never cared about the theatre, or its artists, or its audience. It is a threat to the status quo and, as long as the National was prepared to not threaten, it was happy to speak of its cultural value. Speak that, until there was something more important to spend its money on. It has now reneged on the deal, so now is the time to take the establishment on.

The measures Sir Peter is suggesting are defensive. By closing the one theatre that is the only one left in the establishment, he is playing into the establishment's hands. It does not care about the Cottesloe, touring or redundancies. It just wants pretty shows.

By talking of "production values" Sir Peter is merely giving the establishment what it wants. The fact that there will be a little less of it makes no difference. It is not queuing for returns, is it? Perhaps this is presumptuous, but I'd like to give Sir

Life in the 'stray dogs' yet

Sir, — The first of Gaddafi's conditions to release the hostages states: "That Britain undertakes not to support the stray dogs and to hand them over as well as to stop all antagonistic activities against the Libyan people." What encouraged Gaddafi in setting this preposterous condition was his past experiences in dealing with governments who had succumbed to his blackmail and yielded to his pressure. This is what happened when West Germany released from prison convicted assassins belonging to Gaddafi's hit squads, who had just started serving their sentences, and in which he disbelieved the Libyan exiles received the news of Morocco's handing over to Gaddafi a number of his political opponents.

Gaddafi believes that his political opponents in exile are being supported by the countries in which they reside when they practice

their right of voicing their opinion within the law of these countries. And it's considered by Gaddafi an act that is "antagonistic to the Libyan people" committed by the country where an opinion critical of his regime appears in its press or when a political opponent of his manages to voice his views through its media. Furthermore Gaddafi strongly believes that if he exerts enough pressure on Britain and offers the right price he will achieve his aim of having his political opponents handed over to him one way or another. For he can neither understand nor appreciate that there are governments which will not sacrifice their countries' ideals and principles no matter what amount of pressure he can exert. — Yours sincerely, Mohamed A. Ben Chaboua, Chairman, Libyan Constitutional Union (Address supplied).

### As Zia clears the decks

Sir, — I refer to your leading article on Pakistan (January 29) and Alex Brodie's report from Islamabad (February 4).

The General Election in Pakistan will be held on schedule — on February 25 for the National Assembly and on February 28 for the four provincial assemblies. In spite of the boycott call from the so-called Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, some 1,268 candidates are contesting 217 seats of the National Assembly and some 3,500 candidates are in the run for 460 provincial assemblies' seats.

Excepting those convicted for serious malpractices in the Shuto-held 1977 General Election, President Zia lifted the disqualification ban on many hundreds of politicians to enable them to enter the electoral ring.

President Zia has said that the newly-elected federal legislature, scheduled to meet in Islamabad on March 23, will enjoy the powers laid down in the 1973 constitution. It can also legislate for the revival of political parties. The future Prime Minister will be required to command the confidence of the majority of the National As-



Peter a reason for art. If you ask the person on the street what is the best thing about this country, you would probably receive a reply that concerned freedom, or tolerance, or democracy.

Where did those things come from? Maybe they always existed, but like the wheel in the tree, someone had to see them and cut them out — conceptualise them. This has largely been the work of artists, who have continued to develop and test such freedoms in whatever circumstance they have become threatened.

Thus the artist has traditionally preserved, protected, and nurtured those things that the average person — and indeed this Government — considers to be the best. Those freedoms are now under considerable threat, as an artist, it is up to Sir Peter to take the offensive.

I suggest that he does not make the cuts he proposes, with the exception of building maintenance — let the monument to non-art crumble. I suggest that what he does cut is the present repertoire. Or at least that part

Community that's seeing red

Sir, — A new threat to the survival of community and self-reliance in urban and deprived areas, which seems to be attracting little attention, is the present bill now before Parliament, designed to make the Trustee Savings Bank into a public company.

The TSB is unique among the banks. Started more than 150 years ago by a Scottish vicar to help the poor to help themselves, it has remained a bank for working people. It has many of its 1,600 branches in housing estates and inner city areas which the other banks would not touch. It has only personal customers, six million of them, many with small accounts. And yet, with no outside capital, it has built up assets of more than £800 million.

Now, with a chairman, Sir John Read, who supports current monetarist policies, the TSB is to become a public company. The interests of shareholders, not those of its customers, will, without a shadow of doubt, come first. The ordinary people will now come second to profitability, extracted from the savings of the poor to service the rich.

What right have the directors of the TSB and the Treasury, to take this brazen action? They claim that no-one owns the bank, and so presume that there is no-one to be consulted. Many think otherwise. They believe the bank belongs to the depositors — as the Treasury was legally advised nearly ten years ago.

The TSB is the only bank available to us in this inner city area of Sheffield. The branch here has given innumerable people, not only to us but to a large number of small churches and community groups. Will it still be here for us in five years, when profit for the shareholders takes precedence?

I hope everyone in a position to do so will ensure that the bill, which received its first reading this week, is opposed from all sides of the House. — Yours sincerely, John Vincent, Urban Theology Unit, Sheffield.

Weekend Money

letters — page 25

A COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNLETH: For a change of scene on Tuesday I went 40 miles north to climb a well-known hill called Mynydd Mawr. The name means the Great Mountain, a curious title for a modest hill right next to Snowdon. It is a hill I have often passed along the road to Caernarfon, admiring its shapeless outline; but until this week I had never tackled it. I set off from the

main road along a forestry track and was very glad half an hour later to escape from the gloom of the spruces into the sunlit uplands. It was warm and sparkling a February day as was ever waited to us by the benevolent gods, and the way to the top turned out to be far from difficult. But don't let me deceive you. Although there is no scrambling involved, there is one short steep sec-

tion which does its best to test your lungs, your hips, your knees, your ankles, your determination, or any other weak spot you may have. And if you have no head for heights, you should turn your eyes away from the great precipice whose edge you have to negotiate near the summit. My one regret is that I can't claim it was a peaceful walk. All afternoon roaring big heli-

copters flew endlessly around and around the corries of Snowdon. And from time to time low-flying jets screamed past, but I have long ago despised of every again enjoying the mountain silence we used to take for granted in the days of my youth, and which was one of the greatest delights of upland walking.

WILLIAM CONDRY.

Why put money in the TSB when my wallet is big enough for both of us?

Sir, — The American legislation provides no answer: witness the case of J. P. Stevens. In fact the US legislation exemplifies the problems of a legal procedure — particularly the delay and expense rather than offering ready-made solutions.

Perhaps Mr Torode's assumption is that only a minority of employers at Grunwick-type situations would vote for the union, and so the penalties would be against the workers who continued to press for recognition. But, as his own example of the Royal National Institute for the Blind shows, a lot of workers will join the union after it is recognised, so head counting union members is not enough.

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WILLIAM CONDRY.



WEEKEND

# SPORT

## Man with The Knowledge



IN THE DRIVING SEAT... "I was as good at coaching as some of the famous players, if not better," says Peter Shreeves. Picture by Garry Wessner

TALKING to a football manager can sometimes become an exercise in self-punishment. One Ron Knee-style supreme intimidates the press by asking: "any intelligent questions?" Another has the disturbing habit of brow-beating reporters into answering their own questions. Some will quietly remark: "I don't think you were at the match, son."

Peter Shreeves never bothers with these tricks of the media trade. A-keed a precise question, the Spurs manager will always give a considered reply. It is not in Shreeves's nature to play verbal games — instead he focuses his analysis on the game that has been his lifetime passion.

Despite his candour a number of myths promptly took root when Shreeves succeeded Keith Burkinshaw last summer. It was said that he was virtually unknown outside White Hart Lane, that he was the servant of his ambitious directors, and that he was a former taxi driver who had found his way into professional football.

None of these notions bears close scrutiny. Shreeves is a well-known figure in the Greater London area as, say, Alan Mullery, having played or coached for Reading, Chelmsford, Charlton and Wimbledon before joining Spurs in 1974. Tactful he may be but hardly tame, as his willingness to leave out highly paid players like Crooks and Hughton proved earlier in the season. The loyalty of men like Perryman and Roberts would only go to a players' manager who knew his own mind.

One or two cabinet figures among his closest friends but professional football is his deepest love, and has been without a break for 26 years. During his time with Chelmsford in the Southern League in the late 60's he boosted his income from football by driving a taxi in the afternoons. Indeed, he still refers to "The Knowledge" (cab drivers' topography).

The first prolonged contact most reporters had with Shreeves came last September when Spurs played a UEFA cup tie in Portugal. It was soon apparent that the new boss was no killjoy — while he sunbathed at a hotel near Oporto, Huddle and Ardiles played tennis with two travelling fans (winning 6-4 in the third set). Spurs also won 3-0 in Braga the same evening.

Shreeves had already spent part of the summer in France watching the European Championships and noting tactical ideas he might find useful in his first season as manager. Since then Spurs have gone some distance towards retaining the UEFA Cup and winning the League

### Robert Armstrong talks to Peter Shreeves, enjoying his first season as Tottenham's manager

Championship for the first time since 1961. As Shreeves points out, the club have not been so well placed for more than a decade. "We got to fourth position in 1981 and then we fell away. But here we are in February and we're in contention for the title. If we remain in contention until the last three or four matches and our fans are looking at Everton and wanting them to lose and hoping Manchester United lose, isn't that really what this club is about?"

"If we fall because we are eventually not good enough I would still say that we worked very hard, had a go at it, and let's hope we can improve next season. I would not say it's a bad season if we don't win anything but maybe the Spurs supporters would not agree with that."

Remaining hot on the heels of Everton clearly holds the key to the economics of Tottenham, who depend on substantial League attendances to meet their massive

Everton charge. Soccer Diary, and all today's fixtures, page 16

wage bill and running costs. Seated at his desk with a detailed wall chart of all the clubs' teams and players at his elbow, it would be easy to mistake the dapper Shreeves for the chief executive of a busy corporation. An impressive range of up-to-date office technology helps sustain that image.

Yet after 10 years coaching his way up through the youth, reserve and first teams, the 44-year-old Shreeves is still a transient manager at heart. The former Spurs defender John Pratt now has a greater role in training the senior squad but Shreeves immerses himself in tactics and planning for every game, always working on Friday nights to surprise the opposition.

The other day every Spurs player was asked to go home and write down four ideas on how to improve team performance against Sheffield Wednesday today. It keeps them alert instead of just spending the evening watching television," said Shreeves, who is astute enough to

admit that Spurs can learn from Wednesday, despite the marked contrast in their style.

"They make a big thing of set pieces — you look at the figures which show that something like 40 per cent of goals are scored from set pieces. That means the man who doesn't work hard at defending is not doing the best for his team. However, if we occasionally knock a long ball forward, then that is a surprise weapon, given our style of play. If we get one against one at their end, there is nothing wrong with that."

Shreeves was one of the few First Division managers to take the European Championships seriously, making a careful note of tactical systems rarely seen in Britain. "Hardly any of the teams over there used two central strikers like we do at Tottenham. But we have tried one striker in practice and if we had to switch to that during a game, we could do so very quickly. The spaces either side of a single striker open up scoring chances for your midfield players when they move up."

"I also saw the value of the runs of central defenders. For instance, when Morten Olsen gets the ball, before you know where you are, he is at the other end at the throats of your defenders. Graham Roberts can go forward for us, not with the same pace perhaps, but I know for a fact that other teams get frightened when Graham goes on a surging run. Opposing defenders have to decide whether to come and block Graham or stay with the man they are marking."

Coaching, more than any other topic, brings Shreeves alive, which is hardly surprising since it became his lifeline to the League after cartilage problems ended his playing career at the age of 28.

He had a cruel setback as an 18-year-old inside forward with Reading, breaking his right leg just three days before he was due to make his debut for Wales in an Under-23 match. (His parents were war-time evacuees from London and he was born in Neath.)

However, the Third Division player who never quite fulfilled his early promise came under the influence of Dave Sexton at a rehabilita-

tion centre for injured players and the two men have been exchanging ideas ever since. On FA courses Shreeves made the most of his new-found niche. "I was as good at coaching as some of the famous players, if not better. There were two aspects to it, one a teaching skill, the other a natural gift, and I had both."

Ironically Shreeves has become more impatient with embryonic talent since taking over the first team in 1981. "Ten years ago when Terry Neill brought me here as youth coach, I used to say 'they're only young boys, give them a chance'. But now after dealing with quality players it can get me frustrated when I see something not quite right further down the scale. I have to keep reminding myself that a good coach needs lots of patience and lots of care."

"One of the reasons things are going well here is that half the players in the first team were 14 or 15-year-old kids when I first came to the club. I think there is a build-up of trust between people who work together for that length of time."

Having worked with the boys, I know about their strengths, not only their ability but their mental approach to the game, their desire to be a winner. We have used only 14 players this season, which shows I have been fairly consistent with people. I have kept faith with players who have gone through bad times and this has been an important factor while we have remained in with a shout for the title."

Shreeves gets few opportunities to spend a quiet evening at home with his wife, two daughters and five-year-old son — this week his busy schedule also took him to visits to West Ham and Dublin for Ireland's friendly international against Italy. He told an anecdote about an Irish fan in a wheelchair who trundled down the right wing of the pitch to the toilets. Italy were, though, 2-0 up as their flying winger cruised by.

Despite his rise to one of the most prized jobs in football, Shreeves makes a regular point of keeping in touch with his roots. "I have a circle of friends which has been going for 25 years. We think that is rather special. We were all boys from the working-class area of Islington, though we have progressed in life and got nicer houses to live in, we are still basically the same lads. We have a drink together after the game and if I throw a party they are the ones to come."

No doubt all those friends will be hoping that this will be the last of a double celebration with one big party in May.

### CRICKET

## Matthew Engel on cricket's one-day chaos Limited overs, limited appeal

THIS morning England are due to arrive in Sydney to face a very different challenge to the one just finished in India. The World Championship of cricket will start tomorrow week, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the state of Victoria, the new Melbourne floodlights, and Channel Nine's desperation for a quick return on their investment in cricket.

All the Test-playing countries will be there, England reluctantly so, and whoever it can expect to be considered the World Champions. Yet we already have a World Cup, and this is not it, and this will not be played under anything like World Cup rules.

This week, David Gover and his team early took in the news that in addition to the expected carnival stuff of coloured uniforms, white balls and black sightcreens, there will be restrictions which hampered England in their one-day matches in Australia two years ago will apply again: only two men outside the ring and two compulsory men in catching positions for the first 15 overs, and a maximum of five legside close fielders throughout.

The other regulations appear almost identical to those in the World Series Cup, the brilliant competition that took 10 preliminary matches to ascertain that, of Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka Australia and West Indies are

Henry Blofeld in Melbourne, page 17

the two best sides. And this year there is a new twist of horrible complexity, that makes it far less advantageous to bat second in a rain-affected match. It involves calculating the overs which have brought most runs, and comparing them, and it hardly bears thinking about.

England are to blame for thoroughly sloppy staffwork, in that the team was picked, and that Mark was given a crucial role, without anyone being aware whether or not the outside restriction, which is a big hindrance to his bowling, was going to apply. This is not the first time well-meaning English amateurism in selection matters has been made to look silly.

But, anyway, what on earth are England doing playing what is (hegging the game) a new twist of horrible complexity, that makes it far less advantageous to bat second in a rain-affected match. It involves calculating the overs which have brought most runs, and comparing them, and it hardly bears thinking about.

A mystique has grown up around the phrase World Cup after the first three, held in England, which have been increasing success in 1975, 1979 and 1983. In the end, there was great disappointment at Lord's, where officials had been initially anxious to palm the thing off, when the joint India-Pakistan bid to stage the 1987 competition succeeded.

There remain considerable doubts as to the wisdom of accepting the India-Pakistan offer. It is very possible that the semi-finals will be in Karachi and Bombay, with the final in Calcutta. There are only two flights a week from Karachi to Calcutta, both by Scandinavian Airways and leaving very few feasible connections either. No doubt special arrangements will be made for the teams, but what about if anyone wants to watch the games?

The other major concern involves the format. Two days are being taken to fit in 60-over matches in the available subcontinental daylight — two-day one-day cricket is an absurdity, and the first day will just be a bore. I am convinced the ICC will change the rules and make the games 50 overs.

That will make the World Cup even less different to the competition about to start in Australia. Yet it will still be 1981 before the event can return to the country where it began and, all chauvinism aside, is likely to do it best, because distances, daylight, communications are all more suitable in England.

It is extraordinary that the ICC, who have smothered world cricket with a ludicrous number of Test matches, should now underplay its newest and most golden asset. The four-year gap between World Cups has no relevance.

John Samuel at Bormio

## Stenmark has special urge

### SKIING

OVER THE years, special slalom has provided some magnificent moments at the world championships, but few have been better in prospect than tomorrow's final men's event at Bormio.

Pirmin Zurbriggen, Marc Girardelli, Ingemar Stenmark — each has a particular ambition to stand on the podium of Bormio's central square, its church and civic buildings dignified by centuries, and receive the last honours at what has proved an outstanding ten days of ski racing.

Always in men's slalom there are about 20 who can win. On Stenmark's glazed 38-degree slope, down twin runs of 533 metres and 50-plus gates, most ambitions will be shredded. Stenmark, at 28, knows this is his last chance of a world championship victory. His 79 World Cup victories far exceed anyone else's in a career starting in 1974, when Gustavo Thoeni at St Moritz won the world slalom championship with a run of exquisite style, a fitting climax to a great career.

Can Stenmark achieve the same? Can he add the 1985 to the 1978, 1980 and 1982 special slalom world titles?

He is a hero in Sweden greater even than Bjorn Borg. A personal press corps has accompanied his every appearance at a major event, solicitously respecting his Garbo-like private life, hanging on every word passing his notably reticent lips.

Much, though, has changed in Stenmark's life since he met a Swedish-born woman, a flight attendant named Ann Uvågsson. She became Stenmark's constant escort, his personal manager in every respect.

They married in May; just afterwards, their eight-month-old daughter Natalie was born. Ann arranged exclusive pictures with Svensk Damtidning, the Swedish women's magazine. Following the modern custom, she keeps her own name. No one answers to Mrs Stenmark except Ingemar's mother.

and Norwegian as well as Swedish, for he is a Scandinavian passion, say he is more relaxed, easier to talk to these days.

The snag is he is not winning ski races any more; of seven special slalom titles this season, Girardelli has won four. On the face of it he will go out of world championships like a slaughtered sheep, rather than the lion we once knew.

But it isn't like that to Stenmark. Giant slalom is no longer the race that it was. The first run here was a super-GS, more suited to a downhill.

Stenmark's dislike of downhill is notorious. He has been called "coward", killjoy, and worse for refusing to ski it. On the one occasion when he started to train seriously for it he fell so heavily he was in hospital with concussion. He has not attempted to race it since, and so forfeited any chance of bonus points for World Cup Combined downhill and slalom at nominated events. The World Cup titleholder of 1976, 77 and 78, he was thus effectively legislated out of any further chance of the overall, though winning the giant and special slalom titles 15 times.

Phil Mahre became the overall king, to be succeeded last season by Zurbriggen. Stenmark, in spite of the changing nature of course setting, won the 1984 giant slalom title, but Girardelli pipped him for the special slalom.

This season a seemingly dispirited Stenmark has ended up an also-ran or faller in World Cup giant slalom, with only 15th and ninth, twice, to show.

He is totally disillusioned by the courses. "The second world championship course on Thursday was set traditionally. I made a mistake and went out of the course, but that was all."

In special slalom it is a different story. He may not have won in seven races, but Stenmark-watchers noted his second place to Girardelli in



STENMARK: fitting farewell?

the final event before the championships. Stenmark was getting hot for Bormio. But can it be hot enough? Stenmark is not easily fooled. No champion at his level is.

"I cannot now beat Girardelli in ordinary circumstances," he said, with characteristic honesty, earlier this season. "But what are the 'extraordinary circumstances' by which Stenmark might still beat Girardelli? The answer is a world championship, the sudden death event where everything has to happen on the day, the last hundredth of a second."

"Marc has never had that pressure," says Stenmark. "I shall wake up on Sunday and feel again the excitement. For Marc it may be more difficult."

On Zurbriggen, seeking a medal in all four events after gold in the downhill and combined, and silver in giant slalom, the pressures will be heavy, too. Stenmark, for once, is not the favourite, though sentimentally he will carry many hopes, and not all Scandinavian. It is going to be quite an event.

## Gibbs busy playing himself in

IN HIS play, *The Real Thing*, Tom Stoppard sets up his usual razzle-dazzle philosophies to explain how a stream of words is not meant good writing, just as a lump of wood is not necessarily a decent cricket bat.

England's playwrights are all at it. *Mad about the game*, Harold Pinter's devotion has been well chronicled. Stoppard at his weekend wicketkeeper, at every opportunity. David Hare, Simon Gray and Ronald Harwood are all besotted by cricket. Dammit, Denis Potter's daughter even opens the bowling for England.

In the penultimate scene of *Another Country*, Julian Mitchell even introduces a cricket team beginning, in batting order, "A Marxist, a liberal, a homosexual and a sadist... Though we never got down to the left spinners' leavings."

A new writer took guard on the London stage this week. He may be far less romantic about the game. Twenty seasons ago P. J. K. Gibbs scored a stack of runs in three seasons for Oxford University. Between 1968-72 he hit over 7,000 runs for Derbyshire including a dozen centuries at just under 30 an innings. He retired, traditionally, to open a sports shop. Now he is plain Peter Gibbs, playwright.

His new play, *Rumblings*, opened at the prestigious Bush Theatre on Thursday night. It is not about cricket, though when I saw the foyers billing, I reckoned it could have been a panegyric for covered pitches and an expiring County Championship — a white collar comedy of the near future set against a background of geological fracture and industrial decline.

It is Gibbs's first stage play following a stream of scripts for radio and TV, many garlanded with awards. By a fluke, this week's *Variety Club* award to the veteran actor, Jimmy Jewell, was prefaced on TV by a snatch of Gibbs's touching play for David Puttnam's *First Love Series* — *Arthur's Hallowed Ground* — about the old club cricket groundsman who cannot face retiring, knowing another man will be caring for his beloved pitch.

Of his recently intense output — a new play for Yorkshire scheduled for Spring and a six-part series for Central ready to roll — Gibbs's only other play concerning



PETER GIBBS, once a prolific scorer for Oxford University and Derbyshire, has just seen his first stage play open. Frank Keating talks to a talented man now chasing a different kind of run

cricket was last year's *Beneath the Veil* for BBC TV which had a young first-class umpire beginning his career standing alongside a bullying old sweat whose generosity as well as his index finger was sun-browned and tarred with many a season's dismissals.

Like many opening batsmen — have you noticed? — Gibbs's eyes blaze open, blue-grey. But the smile is soft, self-deprecating and readily switched on.

Gibbs wrote snippets here and there, and stored up incidents during his 10 years in first-class cricket: "I was desperately keen, desperately serious — serious being the operative word. 'Writing' I was always fascinated with dialogue, suppose the development for me between cricket and writing is now being able to play — to be — the whole team all through the same day."

He did not play many shots as a boy. From Hanley GS he read P.E. at Oxford. Missed Pateudi by a year. I was the only State school player in the side, I think, and sometimes I felt like walking on to the field, through a different gate."

With Derbyshire he was one of a memorably dour opening partnership. "P. J. K.,

Gibbs and D. H. K. Smith are still together, having put on 37 in the first two hours," would announce radio's regular lunchtime scoreboard.

Derbyshire should have won the Gillette Cup in 1968. Certainly, they went into the final against Yorkshire at Lord's with the better side. Rhodes, Ward, Rumsey was a class attack. "We had a team meeting and decided to bat if we won the toss. The skipper, Derek Morgan, went out, won — and then put them in!"

Close and Yorkshire had been in the final before, of course. The blighter totally out-manoeuvred us. Instead of waiting for things to happen, like us, Close made all the running — he was hammering at our door once, saying 'C'mon Derek, are your lads ready?'"

"When we went in, I lost all track of time. I was bowled by Nicholson for 19 playing an horrendous 19 two minutes before tea."

Surely he could turn a day like that into the definitive cricket play? "Alas, actors just cannot be professional cricketers. No offence, but just throw them a catch and you can tell they are still actors. Just like actors can never be professional foot-

batters — they just haven't the thighs on them for a start."

And certainly we recalled the pata-cake palms of Alan Bates, who allied himself to a rounder trying to catch a steeper in *The Go-Between*. Or Michael York batting in *Accident*. Or Richard Harris in that disastrous film about a rounder trying to catch a steeper in *The Go-Between*. Point made.

Gibbs was the professional reality. He stood in the outfield for day after day — "I'll be on speaking terms with every blade of grass on the County Ground at Derby." He often thought: "What the ruddy hell am I doing just standing out here all day? He has batted only once in the last three years. He scored 78."

Stoppard's *Real Thing* speech came to my mind again when Gibbs tells of his exit from the County game. Of his "2nd-class centuries, six were scored at Edgbaston. His final 100 there rang down the curtain for him."

As Stoppard wrote, writing his bat — if you can get it right the ball will travel 200 yards in four seconds and all the batsman has done is give it a knock-like knocking the bat off a bolt of stout, and it makes a noise like a trout taking a fly."

If you don't get it right, the ball travels 10 feet, you drop the bat and dance around shouting 'Ouch!'

Gibbs saw the light in that last innings at Edgbaston. His illustrious namesake, Lance, was fighting them down. "Suddenly, a sublime feeling, just one ball, I hit it off the back foot through midwicket, an old-fashioned attacking shot: not a pull, no, but one of the most difficult shots imaginable. But in that instant I played it to absolute perfection."

"Sublime. Sensational. Yet when I got back to the pavilion the moment tormented me. Here, was I, looking to recapture that supreme satisfaction every time I was at the wicket, but knowing I was only capable of it just once in many blue moons. And there was somebody like Barry Richards doing it at will every day."

Close of play. As Stoppard says: "It's just better, because it's better." Ouch!















## JOHN CUNNINGHAM on the Church of England's shortfall of vicars

## The call that too few answer

THE Church of England is praying for vocations like never before. The number of students training to be fully ordained priests in 1980 — dropped last year to 303. Bishops, worried by this sudden, sharp decline, are targeting every parish in a campaign to increase the number of ordinands.

The Anglican Church, which must be unique in the recession as an institute which needs hundreds more workers, is at a loss to account for the drop. And while the campaign, organised by the General Synod's Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, is evidence of serious concern, no one seems to know how many priests the Church, decaying in the middle and flourishing at the evangelical and social Church edges, really needs.

Estimates are being revised downwards. In 1960, the estimate was 600 new priests a year. The present campaign aims for 350 at least. Several changes in the way the Church operates make such calculations difficult: parishes amalgamate, team ministries start; there has been a growth of the part-time ministry for people keeping their secular jobs. And while women are not yet ordained, deaconesses are on the increase.

There are different perceptions among churchmen about the situation. While all admit that 13,000 clergy are administering to a shrinking C of E, the Bishop of Southwark, Ronald Bowley, says: "There is a kind of mismatch below which it would be hard to drop and continue the parochial system in any recognisable form." However, ACCM's secretary-elect, Canon Timothy Tye, says: "The centre tends to cry alarm, but the parishes in the periphery think they can muddle through as they always have done."

The Church is still, in spite of the imaginative alternative use of some redundant buildings, prisoner of the heritage map of Britain. The biggest deterrent to anyone wanting to become a priest — apart from lack of faith — is, says Bishop Bowley, "the feeling that you're going to be saddled with a vast building which nobody uses much."

Cathedrals magnify the point, where so many parish churches make. Take Salisbury. Around the edges of the green apron which the Cathedral itself dominates, squat the handsome buildings which serve the old, staid prayer monasteries. The close is given over to ecclesiastical and lay administrative offices: there is a choir school and a theological college. The medieval church was labour intensive.

It was tried and continued by the Victorians with their determination to see that every hamlet had a church, new or restored, says Canon Reginald Askew. The ecclesiastical civil service, says Askew, nodding towards the close that lies outside his 18th century study.

There are 14 theological colleges in the Anglican Communion and Askew, a bit of an urban showman, is Principal of Salisbury. The readings on the state of the priesthood are less panicky than Church House and some ACCM members would offer. For a start he reckons that there has never been any serious consideration about numbers.

Then there is the confusion added by the changing of ordained men. "The priest has become more and more mysterious in his office and what he has to say. There are plenty of people who can perform the same functions. This has come as a bit of a shock — a ministry shared by laymen from top to bottom in the Church. We are beginning to equip our churchfolk for these tasks."

But as well as the introduction of the non-stipendiary ministry (121 candidates in 1980-81 accepted last year, which is on the credit side of the manpower account, the church is having to compete with vocations in the caring professions. The rise of nursing, social work, and the probation service, claim some contrants, who once might have considered ordination.

The effect of the recession on numbers is uncertain. Vacancies in the Church do not fill up automatically in the way that the police and the army benefit during periods of high unemployment. Canon Tyndall, though, does see this link: "I think there is a stimulus from economic oppression. The Church has got something to contribute which politicians and economists can't offer."

It may be, of course, that some people are put forward to the ACCM selection conferences, only to find that the panel distrusts their motives — or their ability. Last year, 232 applicants were rejected — almost as many as were accepted. But what is clearly emerging is that, in spite of a dole queue which stretches to 3.3 million people, some ordinands are giving up the security of reasonably or well paid jobs, which they have held for several years, and becoming theological students. Often they are married, and are in their late 20s or 30s, with families.

Among the 80 students at Salisbury, there is a fruit farmer who sold his business after years of deliberation; a Civil Service clerk who says he was increasingly unfulfilled in local government; a man who has done community work and teaching and a British Rail employee.

All are in their second or final years and, with an average salary for a curate of £5,990, or £6,770 as an incumbent, awaiting them, all will take a salary drop in their first appointment. Many of the Salisbury men, who are late entrants, had closet vocations. Thus Malcolm Acheson, who ran the family fruit farm for 10 years, was a churchwarden and felt his interest in the Church's mission was growing over the years.

When Andrew Wade finally got round to acknowledging the call, he was merely confirming at the stage of 30 with his housemaster at Repton had suggested years before as the only career for him. His was a circuitous path — through schools and theatre. Malcolm Strass, an BR employee, had connections with a parish which has a remarkable number of vocations for its size: three ordinands have come from Wootton Bassett in 10 years.

Is Malcolm Strange's analysis which might answer ACCM's question about why vocations come from some areas and not from others. Wootton Bassett is linked to Swindon, which was expanding in the seventies. The liturgy was expressed in a lively way; and there was more and more lay involvement in running the parish. If these are the ingredients in vocations, then the problem is more simple than the bishops allow.

But even though ordinands know that they are entering a church in retreat, and one that might choose to change the parish system still further, there are other challenges. The Church, obstinate to the last, refuses still to ordain women, and thereby loses a chance to solve its problem almost at a stroke. And second, Anglicanism is the, albeit residual, tribal badge of the middle income group.

As Bishop Bowley admits, the working class inner city dwellers are hard to reach. "We don't find it easy to draw people forward from there." At least in Southwark he is thinking about this neglected sector. The view in the shires and the closes is more rosy. In spite of a democratic tilt in the intake of his college, Canon Askew doesn't allow anyone to forget what the Church owes to his caste.

He thinks the English middle class are to be scorned. Sometimes in such worthless vessels, the whole gospel can be treasured and carried. I don't know what God has in mind for the English middle class, but the best wisdom, the most benign understanding of the gospel comes from this corner of history. English socialism is quite willing to be open and critical about what a priest can say.

Of course, a congregation is preferable as an audience.

A Beverly Sister  
box-wax-waxing them at  
the Hippodrome—picture  
by Graham Turner

## A gay in the life of...

Stanley Reynolds  
at the  
Hippodrome

THE REAL place of course is Heaven, under the Charing Cross Arcades, where every night is gay night except for Tuesdays when the rules are bent and they let the straights in. But in the past year that energetic showman, Mr Peter Stringfellow, has gained himself a place in the hearts of London's gays by his Gay Nights at the Hippodrome, in Leicester Square on the site of the old Talk of the town, and they were celebrating the first anniversary of these evenings last Monday with a special night of free wine all night, right in fact, through to 3 am on Tuesday at the bar, and the Beverly Sisters on stage.

Yes, those very same Beverly Sisters, the ones who used to be married to Billy Wright, all the way from back in the Fifties, making their first stage appearance in 15 years. They looked a trifle nervous at first, standing there in their pink pyjamas and pink champagne hair, looking like three vintage Cindy Dells. Then they started to sing How Much Is That Doggy In The Window (The One With The Waggle Tail), and, my, but didn't the boys go mad for it, going "Bewee-wow" in all the right places.

Of course 80 per cent of them had not even been born when the Sisters cut, what is it, the disc all these years ago, but the Beverly Sisters are part of the camp mythology. Not a great part of it, like Judy Garland or Marlene Dietrich who actually made livings out of being camp when they were too far gone to actually sing it straight any more, but camp nevertheless.

And when they started to sing "Sisters" you could tell from the absolute roar of approval and the spraying back and forth, like the kopeked at a football match, that if the Beverly Sisters brushed up the act a bit they might even become legends themselves. On it really was something to see when they sang "Sisters". The clock was turned back. Not musically, but to the good old days of Screaming Queens and Rag Hags and it being all illegal and punishable by Imprisonment, and Vassal and Vaseline, and cottaging with Tom Driberg in the gents outside the House of Commons and the cop coming in to tell him the division bell had sounded. It was a bit like all that. The great days of queendom when the danger of it gave even the meanest pansie speaking out of the closet a bit of glamour, like a Commando who was just going off on some big do in France or something. That was the way it was before the gays became respectable and just another boring pressure group, like one-parent families.

It is part of the human condition to blend in with the surroundings, and the only thing I can say for certain is that the fellow in the pink shirt, with the pink tie and the passion pink lenses in his specs smoking with a cigarette holder was okay, almost, because it was me. (The Hippodrome doorman was not fooled. "It's gay night tonight, sir," he warned me.)

Most gays don't seem to look it any more, at least after the first few mad moments of first bursting out of the straitjacket cocoon. Anyway, is it really some sort of perverted voyeurism sitting about watching people dance? I mean, it is a time honoured occupation, they are always doing it in Jane Austen and in Tolstoy. You do not sit there thinking, "My God! The Dance Floor is Writhing With A Thousand Squirming Faggots!"

Or do you?

Someone said he counted only 16 women on the dance floor, plus some possibilities. He added: "He was apparently, having fun playing the old English game of spot-the-faggot. And how old fashioned and boring that sounded. Could it really be that thrilling? And if so, why?"

Later this month, on Sunday February 24 in fact, the Hippodrome is holding its "first black-tie Drag Ball" which they are calling "The Night of a Thousand Frocks" which is more like it, like something out of Genet. But

hardly a warning of imminent danger. At the end of a winter of lowering temperatures and lightning spirits my mother asked if I was "cured for good". The answer was really in the negative. "One day, after years of sitting behind a desk breathing city air, it will come back." But I had for some time been waking up at 2 o'clock each morning and making a breathless nuisance of myself.

So the idea that the next bout of coughing was four decades away caused little or no alarm. The final medical judgment confirmed that I was as near to permanently cured "as makes no difference." It takes a difference now and last Monday morning, spent in bed, proved it.

Minor illness is not the fun that once it was. I confess that when last week I decided to spend the day in bed I actually looked forward to the comfortable compensation of a patient's luxury.

But there is little joy to be found in a morning of bedridden sickness if there are no Dinky aeroplanes to land on the pillows, and no model motor-cars to push their way through the avian-lashed blocked mountain passes which can be easily constructed out of crumpled sheets. A centrally heated bedroom denies the special pleasure of lying safe in a blanket-coconed ball and feeling the special security of being in the one warm place in a generally cold world.

And if the patient has reached the age of responsibility, respect for reputation if not consideration for others prevents the constant demand for another book, a fresh cup of tea, a clean handkerchief, a different programme on the wireless, and an orange which has been peeled without any of the pith left on or any of the segments being broken. Illness without the ability to agitate is not worth having.

In infancy, the other compensation for the hoops of steel with which my ribs were bound was the simple pleasure of missing a day at school. By the time that the coughing stopped and I had discovered history, the sliding tackles, William Shakespeare, and thick custard at 12 o'clock, I actually enjoyed the pursuit of learning. But at 11-minus I hated every minute of milk through a straw and spelling tests.

The House of Commons—although in many ways much more like a primary than a secondary school—provides education and entertainment as the old City Grammar. So instead of lying in bed feeling like a prisoner out on parole, last Monday I was like an exile banished from home.

What is more, I was an exile with a neck which itched intolerably. Back home in Sheffield in the 1940s my illnesses were never complicated by the

shaving dilemma. Now there is an agonising choice to be made. Do I lie there and scratch in the warmth or do I prop myself up against the bathroom washbasin and scrape away at the irritating bristles? Only those who have faced the agonising question can understand its full implications.

Once upright and in front of the mirror do I remove both dressing gown and pyjama top and expose my troubled torso to the elements, or do I wrap the protection close around me and risk the lapel and collar becoming daintily edged with shaving cream? And before the operation begins do I search for my slippers? In the old days I knew that I had to "put something on me" before my mother told me to go.

In any case, illness is not the same without an open fire in the living room to sit in front of when the attack (or "about" as we used to call it) is over. Looking back on

those distant days of gradual recovery, they all seem to have been one long Oveline advertisement, with the rain beating against the windows, a rug tucked around my knees and my father rushing in from work with a model soldier which he had bought out of the change from his tram fare. Last Tuesday I had to recover without benefit of even the Dandy or Beano. It hardly seemed worth while being ill.

Except in one particular. The return of bronchitis certainly confirmed my status as nostalgic supreme. As I lay there thinking about the good old days, I kept recalling the superiority of things past. Nothing seems quite as good as it used to be. Bread and opening batsmen, travelling by car and queuing for seats in the cinema, Bridlington and bananas, none of them is quite the same. If illness seems to have deteriorated to, I must have scaled nostalgia's highest peak.

## ENDPIECE

Roy  
Hattersley

WHEN I woke up last Monday morning my chest was making the sort of noise which I had not previously heard for over forty years. In a moment of nostalgic joy, I am, I properly rejoice that I am, in my properly spent youth. Put a table tennis bat in my hand and I will rend the air with forehand drives and sighs. Hand me a Wolf Cub cap and I perch it just above my moistening eyes.

Merely to mention the 1940s is usually to send me clanging away down memory's ramblines into a world of Fry's milk chocolate, stamp collecting, and grazed

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## DIARY

A SHOCKING document advocating the abolition of the monarchy, the "elimination" of the present Labour Party leadership, the takeover of key public buildings and the disbanding of the police written by a GLC employee has been leaked to number of Fleet Street papers.

The document—a Target Labour Government manifesto—is signed by Ms Diane Abbott and is already setting alarm bells ringing at the highest levels of the Labour Party. But even more alarmed is Ms Abbott herself since the document is a fake. What somebody has done is to get hold of an early draft of a paper for discussion at a workshop at the forthcoming Target Labour Government conference and retyped it with one or two monster raving loony Trotskyist inserts (Ms Abbott calls them "garbage") sufficiently extreme for the Labour Party powers-that-be to employ several large poles in any future dealings with Ms Abbott.

But why should anyone go to the trouble of faking such a document? The reason may have something to do with discussions ward officials in Brent East had with Ms Abbott last November. Would Ms Abbott, a black Labour activist, stand against Mr Ken Livingstone in the coming re-election battle in Mr Ben Fresson's constituency? Ms Abbott did not commit herself, and heard no more about it until newspapers started printing rumours that she would. There were suggestions circulated that she had done a deal with the right in order to keep Ken out.

Last week Ms Abbott confronted Mr Livingstone over lunch during which, she claims, Mr Livingstone said maybe his supporters had been getting a little over-enthusiastic without his knowledge. He would have a word. Ms Abbott says he had a copy of an early draft of the document which was later leaked in a forged form and asked her about it, claiming the contents could be very damaging.

Mr Livingstone resolutely refused to say anything about this. As for Ms Abbott, she says that such tactics will, if anything, persuade her to stand in Brent East: "I won't be bullied."

FURTHER myths trickle in from the misfields. The latest—no, honestly it's true—is that Mr Scargill had gas central heating installed once deliveries of anthracite dried up. No, really. Cross my heart.

FRIENDS and admirers of Mr Rodney Tyler, the confidant of the Thatchers who is employed from time to time to write exclusive profiles of the various members of the family will have been delighted to see Thursday's important profile of Mr Denis Thatcher reprinted in substantially the same form in yesterday's Sun.

True confessions of Mr Tyler's work are excited by the ecological approach to journalism that he employs — recycling enormous swathes of material after a suitable period of time. Thus the Times profile of Thursday's Times profile rewardfully shows it to be very substantially the same as the "exclusive" profile of Mr Thatcher penned by Mr Tyler for the Sunday People on December 5 1982 (pages 8 and 9) — identical quotes, identical anecdotes, identical narrative passages. Well, it seems a shame to waste it.

LORD Chapple's maiden speech, uncontroversial if he can manage it, will be on Monday. Speaking during a debate on Standed. This is said to be that that feels no constraints about speaking during a later debate on Russian defence policy moved by Lord Homa.

DETAILS are being posted of the 1985 Civil Service Poetry Competition (first prize: £50), which it is hoped Lord Gowrie will judge. The entry form thoughtfully reprints last year's winner, Grahame by Poe Bradley. Ms Bradley's poem gives little clue as to whether she is describing life in the Civil Service.

"How terrible it is to live among the dead," said the slow breath of messengers carrying new death into some tomb. Antiseptics, cold dentures, splinters of wood, and splinters of stained metal grab at my feet. It is terrible to sit in this small room... Much more like that and she could find herself at the Old Bailey.

WHAT a broad church is the British Communist Party! Yesterday's Morning Star happily carried an appeal for a "Unite the Communist Party" meeting this weekend. And, next to it, another advert warning London members that they would be breaking CP rules if they attended such a meeting—an offence that would be viewed "very seriously."

Alan Rusbridger



# Why the country should be grateful to Old Father Thames Water Authority



## SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

ANY DAY now, millions of households throughout England and Wales will receive notification of next year's bills for water rates.

The rates demand, which will be asking for sharp rises of anywhere between 10 and 20 per cent, will bring home to the 50 million English

and Welsh water consumers the impact of the raging controversy in recent weeks over water bills in the Thames region.

Thames, the largest of the water authorities, has been courageously fighting against government financial disciplines for the industry, which, for its 11.5 million customers, will mean rate increases of at least 10 per cent compared with the three per cent that Thames wanted to impose.

The Thames battle suffered a heavy defeat on Thursday when MPs voted by a vast majority to support government plans for the industry, despite the fact that some Tories voted against the proposals and others abstained.

However Thames has not fought in vain, even if some shareholders may not feel so charitable later this month when they rip open their manilla envelopes. The Thames Water battle

has served the highly useful purpose of re-opening the festering sore of relationships between the Government and the nationalised industries. It could not have happened at a better time.

By the end of this month, roughly at the same time as householders get the shock of next year's bills through the post, the key Cabinet committee which determines priorities for future legislation will be deciding whether to press ahead with a new Bill to provide Ministers with sweeping powers to govern the nationalised industries.

The outline proposals, which were drawn up by the Treasury, were originally shelved in the Autumn after most sponsoring department Ministers and nationalised industry chiefs objected.

Undaunted, the Treasury resurrected the proposals and sneaked them into the Commons library on the day

that Parliament broke up for the Christmas holiday. The Treasury has invited responses from all sides, but the aim must be to introduce legislation in the next Parliamentary session, time permitting.

If adopted, the Treasury's proposals would represent the most radical shake-up of the nationalised industries since many were first taken into the public sector after the second world war.

In theory the six-point programme is intended to "tidy up" the existing myriad of complex legislation which governs the 20 nationalised industries, replacing it with new powers that would provide "clear guidelines" for public sector corporations to operate as successful, commercial businesses.

But the Bill would permit Ministers to set stringent financial targets, make it simple for the Government to get its hand on a success-

ful public corporation's accumulated profits and make it easier to sack any nationalised industry that a Minister may disagree with.

Such steps have alarmed the nationalised industries, particularly after the Thames Water affair.

Thames is being forced to raise its charges by twice the rate of inflation because of the stiff financial targets imposed on water's sponsoring Ministry, the Department of the Environment by the Treasury.

Thames is being directed to generate far more profits than it needs and hand them over to the Treasury — a back-door tax on water. It is a ploy used in the past on electricity and gas prices and one which will be made easier to arrange if the Treasury's proposals for the nationalised industries pass through Parliament.

The Bill would also seek to replace the existing

requirement that nationalised industries need only break-even with the demand to meet specific financial targets laid down by the Government. This is likely to increase the commercial pressures on nationalised industries and possibly aggravate the conflict between social responsibility in public corporations like water, posts and railways and the Treasury's desire to fund back-door taxation.

There are several other implications, notably on the subject of privatisation.

The proposed Bill will make it easier to sell off public corporations into private hands through a "catch-all" uniform legislation providing a single statute for all nationalised industries. At present, the corporations are governed by over 40 different statutes.

The Bill would also try to clear up the middle of who actually owns the public cor-

porations and this too will arouse some controversy.

Thames, for example, was created by the transfer of assets built up over the years by municipal water boards. No money changed hands and Thames is now treated as a nationalised industry, its actions and executive being directed entirely by government. Strictly speaking, though, the Government does not own Thames Water, yet the Environment Minister was able to reassure doubting Tories on Thursday evening that the Government was considering the privatisation of the Authority.

Similarly, the local area electricity boards also find themselves somewhere between being an orphan and a slave.

Electricity boards were established years ago largely by borrowing money. But under direction of existing Treasury policies, this "founding capital" is rap-

idly being repaid and the electricity boards increasingly being used to transfer large sums into government hands. But if the "founding capital" of the boards is being repaid by the boards themselves, who owns them? The proposed new Bill, if enacted, will provide Treasury and sponsoring Ministers with greater freedom to tap the richer public corporations such as gas, electricity and water while squeezing the poorer corporations like railways, steel and coal mines.

Thames Water, perhaps unwittingly, has helped re-open the debate about the nationalised industries at this a crucial time in the affairs of the public corporations.

For this — if for no other reason — the public corporations, their employers and customers and the taxpayer should be very grateful to the Thames Water Authority.

Michael Smith

## Now stage is set for new battle to stay independent

# Dunlop rescue ends in farce and anger

By James Erlichman, Chemicals Correspondent

The real battle for control of Dunlop began yesterday after votes in support of its rescue package were swept away at a meeting packed with confusion, farce, angry recriminations and 200 shareholders of the beleaguered rubber and tyre company.

The arena is now cleared for a straight fight between Sir Michael Edwards, Dunlop's chairman who wants support for a new rescue package to keep the company independent, and Sir Owen Green who is offering £35 million to take Dunlop and its mammoth debts into his BTR industrial combine.

The farce began when Sir Michael's keen eye spotted interlopers. Squashed together in the shareholders' ranks sat 23 pinstripe-suited men. He accused them of being BTR's merchant banker agents, which of course they were. They had come armed with 28 per cent of Dunlop's preference shares, determined and entitled to veto the £143 million rescue package, as everyone in the hall already knew.

Confusion followed when the BTR men, acting as Dunlop shareholders, attempted to wreck the rescue package before Sir Michael could achieve the same feat by adjourning it

out of existence. They voted, he adjourned and the formalities ended.

Shareholders were finally left where they wanted to be: able soon to choose either a new, improved veto-proof rescue package and Sir Michael, or £35 million worth of BTR shares and the lower profile Sir Owen. If they do not like either they can even take BTR cash at 20p a share and leave.

Sir Michael aimed angry recriminations at both the press and BTR. He accused some journalists of failing to report that Dunlop's banks had offered him their own shares in the now notorious and defunct share option scheme that would have netted him a personal fortune. And he accused BTR of using the veto tactics to force shareholders into accepting an "insulting" takeover price that would "gobble us up on the cheap."

Mr George Magan, BTR's senior merchant banker, replied that the veto tactic was the only way to prevent the rescue package from being rammed home before BTR's takeover bid had a fair hearing. The rescue package was now dead, he said, but the price condition of Sir Michael's share options were less certain. "I suspect that like Mr Chernenko, they are capable of resuscitation."



Sir Michael — interlopers spotted

Later, Mr Robin Biggam, Dunlop's finance director, categorically said that the banks share option scheme, from which he too would have benefited, would not be revived whatever the outcome of the battle. Dunlop's banks have now agreed to swap £70 million of their debt for ordinary equity and have signalled financial support to both sides to avoid any suggestion of interference. Mr Biggam, at least, seems

to relish a clean fight. "BTR has put a sword under the company by proving that somebody is prepared to take over Dunlop's liabilities at a price," he said. "It is a lousy price, but it's more than anyone was prepared to give for the company last October." Dunlop shares rose another 4p yesterday to 42 1/2p, suggesting that BTR may not be alone in wanting to add the Dunlop name and assets to its stable.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Government of Kuwait has emerged as a major shareholder in footwear retailer Stylo after the failure of British Land's tender offer for shares in the company. Recent purchases have lifted the Kuwaiti holding to almost 15 per cent of the limited voting shares while Town Centre Securities, a quoted property group headed by Stylo chairman Arnold Ziff, has lifted its stake to over 19.5 per cent of the shares.

BRITISH TELECOM International has clinched a deal that will allow direct reception in the UK of the US cable television channel, Cable News Network which will be available to British broadcasting companies from September. It features a variety of news-related and current affairs programmes.

BAT's Wiggins Teape subsidiary is in negotiations with Reed International for the purchase of Spicer-Cowan's, Leeds paper and packaging merchandising subsidiary. Operating from over 20 locations, Spicer-Cowan has returned to profitability after the installation of computerised stock control in London.

C. H. BEAZER's £26 million agreed bid for the North East house-builder William Leech has been declared unconditional in all respects and is being left open for further acceptances.

## Water row in full flow

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Thames, the country's biggest water authority, is to maintain its fight against government-inspired sharp rises in water charges.

Thames intends to continue the battle in spite of Thursday's large Commons majority for the Government in a heated five-hour debate on water charges. Some 19 Tories voted against the Government and others abstained.

As a result of the Commons defeat, Thames now plans to issue new bills for 1985/86 demanding the Government-di-

rected 10 per cent increase in charges. Thames wanted to put up prices by 3 per cent.

However Thames 15-man board of directors is due to meet next Friday to discuss fresh tactics to oppose the Government's plan.

It seems likely that Thames will refuse to hand over the extra cash generated by the sharp rise in charges for the coming financial year and challenge the Department of the Environment's grounds for claiming the money.

However Thames Water has welcomed comments by Environment Minister, Ian Gow that the Government is ac-

tively considering the privatisation of the 10 English and Welsh water authorities.

Thames Water chairman, Roy Watts has long advocated privatisation as a means of solving the row over charges.

While Thames Water may be worth up to £750 million if sold into private hands, there seems little prospect of any flotation for at least two years, partly because of the administrative task involved, partly because of the lengthy queue of other public corporations being lined up for sale and partly because the precise ownership of Thames Water is far from clear.

## Commodore halves price of new micro

By Tony May

Commodore has joined the home micro price war by halving the price of its latest machine, the Commodore Plus 4 to £149.99.

The US-owned group is the No 2 seller in the UK, after Sinclair, but trade sources say that its market share was hit over Christmas, hence the 100 redundancies announced recently at the Corby headquarters.

Commenting on yesterday's price cut, Mr Howard Stanworth, the UK general manager, said, "We have always been able to assess and react to rapidly changing situations, and the dramatic events

of this week have opened up a gap which we are moving fast to fill."

The machine has a 64K memory and four built-in software packages which Mr Stanworth says would cost about £400 in competitive machines. The move comes a week after the group intimated that it would not be drawn into price cuts.

The group has confirmed that the Plus 4 will continue to be made in Corby and that this was a further consideration in the pricing decision.

Mr Stanworth said yesterday, "We have geared up in Corby to mass produce the Plus 4 not only for the UK but for Europe."

## Mystery oil talks

From Harold Ockford in Oslo

The proposed Sleipner gas deal between Britain and Norway is believed to be an important topic at a meeting of politicians and top international oil executives who have congregated at a mountain hotel in the Norwegian countryside this week.

Details are top secret and so are the identities and even the number of participants, but it is believed to be 100 or more.

According to Oslo newspaper reports however, the participants include the Norwegian Minister for Energy, Mr Kaare Kristiansen. The meeting, which started last Tuesday and is due to end tomorrow, has been held every winter for several years.



JOHN Aspinall, the flamboyant zoo keeper who runs the Howletts and Port Lympne zoos in Kent, has disposed of 23 million of shares in the USM-quoted casino company Aspinall Holdings to the Howletts and Port Lympne Foundation by way of gift. The disposal reduces his stake in the gaming outfit from 40 per cent to just under 29 per cent

## Societies hold loan rate down

By Peter Rodgers

SIX MILLION building society borrowers have avoided higher mortgage charges, following a decision by the Building Societies Association council yesterday that "circumstances do not warrant a further increase in rates."

The societies have decided that they can live with 14 per cent bank base rates, a more optimistic view than a week ago when they said there was a risk of an increase.

The societies had an inflow of about £200 million in January, about what was needed to sustain the current level of mortgage demand which may be falling. If base rates start to fall, the drop would need to be "substantial" before the societies would consider reducing their mortgage rates.

With the pound weakening on the foreign exchanges, the Bank of England announced a new £1 billion temporary facility to ease shortages of funds in the banking system, the largest yet in a series of technical manoeuvres to ease pressures on interest rates.

A similar move on a smaller scale last month was widely interpreted as an effort to push interest rates down, which helped increase pressure on sterling on the foreign exchanges. This time the markets believe that the £1 billion facility, which winds in two stages on March 14 and March 27, is designed to remove upward pressures on interest rates. These pressures would otherwise be great because of a drain of funds to the Exchequer to pay taxes and because of government sales of extra gilts to curb the money supply.

The Bank also announced a new £200 million tap stock designed for the foreigners who have been buying large quantities of gilts in the last couple of days because of their high yields. The stock is in bearer form, and is free of tax to non-residents.

The dollar leapt on the foreign exchanges while sterling showed less resilience than on Thursday, weakening late in the day. It ended 0.53 cents down at \$1.1190 and was slightly lower against the German mark. The Bank of England sterling index was down 0.2 at 71.8. The dollar meanwhile reached 3.2525 against the German mark, closing at DM 3.2400.

## Rowntree goes sweet on £32m US cookies

By Tony May

Rowntree Mackintosh is taking a fresh bite at expansion in the US with the £32.3 million acquisition of The Original Cookie Company which sells baked-on-the-spot soft biscuits to browsing shoppers.

The York-based group has gone sweet on the US in recent years as its UK confectionery business, Kit-Kat, Building Societies Association and Quality Street is relatively mature.

Its other two North American companies currently make up one third of profits and the cookie deal will start to boost profits in the current half year. Cookie estimates that it

made a profit of \$7 million (£3.6 million) in the year to February on sales of £27 million. Its assets are put at \$5.7 million.

The Cookie company has 150 small shops, mostly in shopping malls, which stimulate the taste buds of passers by with the smell of fresh baking. The best seller is chocolate chip cookies.

The demand for "walk around" snack foods is growing in the US and the group is now into 35 states, predominantly in the Mid-West, North-East and California, and has 1,000 employees.

Each store costs about \$100,000 to set up and around

20 a year are opened. But the \$2 million a year that this represents is easily covered by profit and there are no interest charges.

Rowntree, which is placing some shares to cover the acquisition cost, snapped up the company when it heard that a management buy-out of Cole National Corporation wanted to sell to raise cash.

Rowntree chairman, Kenneth Dixon, was impressed by this company's management and looks forward to the added dollar earnings when it joins the Toms Food operation, and the Canadian Laura Secord chocolates group, late next month. Smart cookie!

## Threat to BSC jobs

By Michael Smith

Hundreds of workers in Britain's declining refractories industry face an uncertain future after a move by the British Steel Corporation and Hephworth Ceramics to merge their refractory interests.

The state-owned BSC is placing its four refractory plants into a new company which will be 78 per cent owned by the stock market quoted Hephworth Ceramics group.

Neither side was able to clarify the future of BSC's 380 refractory workers in plants at Consett, Bishop Auckland, Jarrold and Cramlington. A joint statement said that employees had been informed and discussions would now commence with the trade unions about the implications of the deal.

BSC and Hephworth want to complete the merger by the end of March, subject to government and Office of Fair Trading approval and agreement on the terms of the get-together.

British Steel pointed out last night that its refractories operation had suffered losses of £2.6 million last year and that the market for refractory products was in sharp decline. The intention of the merger, the joint statement said, was to create a strong private second company.

Nearly 1,000 car workers at the Talbot plant near Coventry have been laid off for an indefinite period because of continuing difficulties over delays in payment from the firm's biggest customer, Iran. Talbot makes car kits for Iran and has frequently run into trouble with payments.

## Texaco pushes up petrol 4p a gallon and blames dollar

By James Erlichman

Texaco sparked off another round of petrol price increases yesterday.

The US oil company, which is the fourth largest petrol retailer in Britain, said it was withdrawing subsidies from its stations which would push up the price of a gallon by 4p to 191.5p. The new prices will be posted from midnight on Sunday.

All the other major petrol retailers indicated yesterday that they were likely to follow Texaco's lead. The falling value of sterling against the dollar is again blamed for the increase, as it was when petrol prices were last increased in September last year.

Texaco said yesterday that it is now having to put 21 per cent more for crude oil than it did a year ago because crude, including supplies from the North Sea, is priced in dollars.

Mr Harry Matthews, Texaco's UK managing director, said,

"Almost none of this raw material cost increase has been passed on to the motorist."

While the oil companies' claims about having to pay more for crude are undoubtedly true, they have again chosen a particularly bad time to make their point. Opec has just been invited to reduce its crude prices \$1 a barrel because the oil companies have been able for months to buy supplies at a discount on the spot market. The oil companies have also learned, as the Opec crisis revealed, to squeeze more petrol out of the cheaper, heavier grades of crude.

A Shell spokesman said, however, that the latest 10 cent fall in sterling would add £140 million to the company's raw material costs in a single year. It is a bit cat-and-mouse at the moment, but Shell needs the extra revenue and I suspect Texaco's may well be followed by us, BP and Esso.

## Gestetner to shed 500 London jobs

Gestetner, the office equipment group, is to close a large part of its Tottenham factory in north London with the eventual loss of 500 jobs.

The shutdown was announced yesterday as part of a major restructuring of Gestetner's UK manufacturing operations. The cost of the reorganisation, which will be phased over the next year, is estimated at £7 million.

World sales of duplicating machines and stencils have fallen in recent years and Gestetner said it had been unable to make up for this by manufacturing alternative products at prices matching its international competitors.

Also, the use of electronics in new duplicating machines has reduced greatly the number of

component parts made by the group.

"We cannot use our full manufacturing capacity and this is adding to the already high cost of operating our ageing factories at Tottenham," said joint chairman David Gestetner in a letter to the workforce yesterday.

"The sad but unavoidable consequence of this is that we must now begin to phase out the production both of duplicating machines and of stencils from Tottenham and in future concentrate our main manufacturing efforts where our most modern plants are located."

Production of machine accessories and the spares distribution centre is to continue at Tottenham along with the group's sales and administrative operations.

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6-9-2







Disaster in Putney: only the shell and common areas were covered by the freeholders' insurance

In the light of the recent Putney disaster, David Worsfold considers some of the complex problems of insurance for a block of flats. Where does the landlord's responsibility end and the tenant's begin. And is anyone ready to say?

## When the walls come tumbling down

IN THE immediate aftermath of the gas explosion in Putney attention moved quickly from trying to discover the cause of the explosion to the complex insurance arrangements for the flats. The ensuing controversy brought into sharp focus some of the problems surrounding the insurance of blocks of flats.

Thankfully, few people are likely to suffer the same disaster that befell the residents of Newham House — complete destruction of their flats — but the way insurance cover is arranged for blocks of flats could leave people liable to large repair bills for far more common occurrences such as burst pipes. So it is important for people living in flats to check that they are properly insured.

At the heart of the problem is the relationship between freeholder and leaseholder or landlord and tenant. This relationship is defined in the

lease, which will include a section on the division of responsibility for insuring the flats. The trouble is that most leases do not spell out in sufficient detail who is responsible for insuring what. At the one extreme there is the type of situation that prevailed in Putney where the freeholder insured only the external shell of the building and the common parts, leaving the residents to insure all windows, doors and internal walls as well as their own contents. The other end of the spectrum would see the freeholder insuring everything apart from the contents of each flat.

The first problem then is to find out what your landlord covers. The lease, as we have said, is unlikely to be of much help. You can approach your landlord for more information or, preferably, for a copy of the insurance document. Unfortunately, if the lease

does not say that the landlord is obliged to release details of the insurance then he does not have to. If you own the lease, you can approach your building society who should have had sight of the insurance documents before granting you the mortgage.

Indeed, they should have warned you of any major gaps in the cover, although, in practice, a lot slips through without adequate checking. Assuming that you can get hold of the lease, what should you look for? First, what is insured by the landlord? Are you left with responsibility for windows, doors, external pipework etc? Secondly, important areas of cover are sometimes omitted from the overall policy for a block, the prime example being sub-tenance. Another area is the cost of alternative accommodation if the flat is destroyed or made uninhabitable. This really should be at a level

where it could pay for all the residents to be accommodated elsewhere for as long as it takes to rebuild the block.

If you manage to clarify the insurance arrangements and make sure that everything is covered you can still run into problems. For instance, if a pipe bursts on the roof and the water damages two or three flats below, the resultant claims could easily involve three or four insurance companies with considerable scope for disagreement about who is responsible for what.

In the Putney case, the Ashfords, the family whose plight was highlighted by press and television, were actually adequately insured but were still in danger of being left high and dry because the owners of the block wanted to rebuild while the family wanted to move.

Unfortunately, most of the

cost of rebuilding in such circumstances would be borne by the landlord and insurers, leaving the family waiting for up to two years while the block was being rebuilt before they could sell.

In the Ashfords' case, their insurance company agreed to buy out their interest in the flat so that they could move. When the block is rebuilt the insurance company will sell the flat.

The only way around this problem is to insure flats for their market value. In general, it is a bad idea for householders to insure for market value only because the costs of rebuilding a house will always exceed the market value. In the case of flats, however, there might be some point as the insurance cover carried by the individual residents will almost always be below the rebuilding costs.

There are already two small schemes on the market that go some way towards this solution. They offer to be put together by firms of insurance brokers and are backed by established insurance companies. They offer to pay the market value of the flat if it is destroyed or made uninhabitable for a long period. The costs vary depending on how long you want to wait before you receive the money but are likely to work out at about £20 per year to insure for a market value of £30,000. This cost will be on top of whatever premium you have to pay for your contents insurance and for insuring whatever parts of the building are your responsibility.

The schemes for insuring a flat for its market value are available from Earnest Gold and Co, 10 Manchester Square, London W1E 2LH, and Knight Ellis and Co, Africa House, 64-78 Kingsway London WC2B 6AH.

## People in constant need of a helping hand

Lindsay Cook on the rules that govern the statutory attendance allowance

UNABLE to stand, walk or get dressed unaided, a woman in her fifties applied for an attendance allowance and although her husband had given up work to look after her, she was turned down. She was given 14 days to submit new evidence when a researcher working for the Disabling Income Group arrived and sent off a fierce

letter, detailing the woman's condition, and without further examination the allowance was granted, and £700 in arrears was paid as well.

The case is just one of many which Judith Buckle has come across during her research into the weekly allowance paid to those over two years old, who are so severely disabled they need continual supervision. The allowance is paid at two rates: lower for those needing supervision during the day or the night at £18.10 and a higher level of £28.60 for those who need help both day and night (both rates apply from November 21 last year). There are currently some 400,000 people receiving the

tax-free benefit and a great many of them became eligible when their cases were reviewed, after at first being turned down.

Like the woman, in her seventies, suffering from arthritis, gallstones, a fractured wrist and gynaecological problems, who was so severely disabled that Judith thought the doctor must have examined the wrong member of the family for the claim. The woman later confessed that she hadn't liked to complain to the doctor when he asked questions about what she could do on her own.

This "I manage" syndrome is robbing many people eligible to benefit, while others miss out because they don't know the cash is there.

The mother of a mentally handicapped son, who would have qualified for the allowance from his introduction in 1971, has only just found out about it. The foster mother of a Downs Syndrome child was similarly ignorant until recently.

The Attendance Allowance Board published its first report last summer detailing the 1,754,460 claims dealt with in the first 13 years. Last year 233,480 applications resulted in 159,491 being successful initially, and another 19,819 receiving the cash on review. This is a success rate of 68 per cent for those applying for a review.

The entitlement depends on the amount of supervision needed with bodily functions

such as washing, going to the lavatory, getting dressed, eating, turning in bed, and getting out of bed. But someone who needs assistance getting out of bed and getting dressed would not be regarded as in need of continual supervision if they could manage to look after themselves during the rest of the day.

The allowance is only for long-term conditions and is awarded after six months of the disability.

Those who apply, using form NI 206, are examined by a general practitioner, but not usually their own family doctor. If all the conditions are satisfied the allowance can be awarded for life. Children's awards, however, stop

at the age of 16. If the doctor's report recommends they should not receive the benefit, claimants have three months in which to ask for a review and would usually be re-examined by another doctor. In some cases, their own general practitioner is asked to provide information.

The allowance can also be paid to patients in private hospitals or nursing homes, if they pay the full costs, and when other patients are home from hospital for a short period, the allowance can be paid on a daily basis.

Details of the attendance allowance are included in Non-Contributory Benefits for Disabled People, available from the HMSO price £2.

## Pension rights and wrongs

Many married women are entitled to a pension in their own right, but don't get one because they don't understand the rules. Joe Irving reports

MANY women are losing out on their State pensions because they misunderstand the rules.

Mrs G. Hartley, of Bristol, Norfolk, says: "I was 60 last January. I was under the impression that I had to wait for my pension until my husband was 65."

"It was only by chance when three months later I learned that I was already eligible to apply immediately, and in September, I was granted a pension of £12.89 a week, backdated — not a fortune but nonetheless welcome."

Mrs Hartley adds: "I have since found similar ignorance about the situation among other women of my age."

Mrs Barbara Hibbert, of Thetford, waited a great deal longer before she found out that she was losing money. "I only discovered last May that I should have been drawing my pension since October, 1983."

"When I applied, the DHSS said they couldn't trace my records because I couldn't remember my National Insurance number. It was such a long time since I had used it. I wrote to my MP for help. Within a fortnight I received a pension and a cheque for the back money. I wonder how many more people are missing out in this way?"

There is no way of knowing, but judging from our postbag there could be quite a number of people losing money they have been entitled to draw for years, let alone months. Instead, some may have been struggling to live, counting the days to their husbands' 65th birthdays.

One reader did not find out until her husband was 65 that she should have been drawing a pension for nearly five years.

Now, Mrs B. M. Matthews, of Wadebridge, Cornwall, is trying to extract the unpaid money from the DHSS, but the money she is likely to get is 12 months' backdating. This is the limit the DHSS will pay, and that only in special cases. The commonest cause of pension delays is when the DHSS loses contact. This can happen when National Insurance contributions have not been paid for many years or when the DHSS is unaware of a new address.

Mrs Matthews moved house about two years before her 60th retirement age birthday, and again a few months before the date. The DHSS said it had been unable to contact her, but Mrs Matthews says there should have been

no difficulty in obtaining her whereabouts from near neighbours at her last address, with whom she still keeps in touch. Normally, those within four months of retirement age receive a pension claim form, together with an explanatory booklet which details what most people need to know about the State pension. But both the form and the booklet are of little use to those who don't receive them.

So what can you do to avoid the same unhappy experience as Mrs Matthews? If you believe you are entitled to a pension in your own right, and you do not receive a claim form direct from the DHSS three months before your 60th birthday, lose no time in asking for one.

Even if you are not sure whether you are due to some State pension or not, take the advice of Age Concern, and claim anyway.

How do you know whether or not you are due to some money? The best way to find out is to go to your social security office and ask for the booklet NP32. Broadly, however, the position is this:

● You can't get the State pension if you have never paid contributions, or paid only the married woman's contributions. Instead, you can claim a dependent wife's pension — but not until your husband is 65.

● You can get a full or reduced pension, irrespective of your husband's if you have paid full contributions during all or part of your working life, as soon as you reach the age of 60. You do not have to wait until your husband is 65. For a full pension about nine of every ten years of your working life have to be qualifying years — in other words tax years in which you have paid the necessary number of contributions.

The DHSS booklet sets out in greater detail the why and wherefore of the State pension, including instructions on when and how to claim. A study of its contents will ahead of retirement is worth anyone's time.

Also, worth every penny of the 80p it costs, is the Age Concern booklet "Your Rights." This gives not only an easy to digest rundown of the State pension, but valuable guidance on other benefits available to pensioners.

Age Concern, which campaigns on behalf of elderly people, is unable to estimate the number of women who may be losing money due to them, and is particularly unhappy about the rule which limits backdating to 12 months.

As the case of Mrs Matthews shows, ignorance of the pension claim rules can be expensive. It took like costing her more than three and a half years' pension money which, on any reasonable reckoning, still morally belongs to her.

It wouldn't do the DHSS any harm to pay up, and relax the unfair 12-month rule in any other cases that may crop up.

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AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PAID*	GROSS PAID*
£500 or more	9.00%	12.86%
£5,000 or more	9.25%	13.21%
£50,000 or more	9.50%	13.57%

\*The rate may vary. \*\*Equivalent paid for basic rate taxpayers.

Enquire at any Northern Rock branch or write to us FREEPOST Newcastle

Member of the Building Societies Association. Authorised for investment by Trustees. Branches and Agents throughout the U.K. Assets exceed £1,300 million.

**NORTHERN ROCK**  
BUILDING SOCIETY People with your interest at heart.

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Chief Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091-285 7191.  
City of London Office: Stone House, 128/140 Bishopsgate EC2M 4HX. Telephone: 01-247 6861.  
Scottish Office: 27 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN. Telephone: 031-226 3401.

## DERBYSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

Tomorrow promises to be altogether better for customers of The Derbyshire. Overall the picture shows a wide range of investment and savings schemes, with prospects for both long-term stability and intervals of quick returns.

**CROWN SHARES**  
90-day investment account

**9.25% = 13.21%**  
net gross

## FORECASTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

INSTANT ACCESS  
**SILVER LINK**

Instant access without penalties and higher interest paid monthly.

**8.75% = 12.50%**  
net gross

**TRIPLE GOLD**

28 days' access without penalties and progressively higher returns.

GOLD STEP ONE	GOLD STEP TWO	GOLD STEP THREE
£50 to under £1,000	£1,000 to under £10,000	£10,000 and over
<b>8.50%</b>	<b>9.00%</b>	<b>9.10%</b>
= 12.14%	= 12.86%	= 13.00%

YOUR FORECAST FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**The Derbyshire**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

Step in and see!

**OUTLOOK:**  
definitely brighter at the Derbyshire Building Society. See Yellow Pages for your local branch office.

\*Gross equivalent where basic rate tax is paid at 30%.

Interest rates are variable.

HEAD OFFICE: DUFFIELD HALL, DUFFIELD, DERBY



no difficulty in obtaining the necessary information from the relevant authorities. The fact that the relevant authorities are not always forthcoming in providing the necessary information is a matter of regret. The fact that the relevant authorities are not always forthcoming in providing the necessary information is a matter of regret.

# WEEK-END MONEY

## Home and away draws

### Sara Webb on tax distinctions for working expatriates

"TAXES are the dues that we pay for the privilege of membership in an organised society."

Committed Anglophiles might take Franklin D. Roosevelt's sentiment to imply that once outside the boundaries of the United Kingdom, their tax burden will diminish.

For the working expatriate that is frequently the case. The Inland Revenue seeks to tax all income arising in the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), and not the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, no matter to whom it belongs, and all income arising outside the United Kingdom which belongs to persons resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom.

Anyone who is resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is subject to capital gains tax on his worldwide capital gains, but non-domiciled persons are only liable on a remittance basis.

For tax purposes, a distinction is made between an individual's domicile and residence. Domicile is permanent while residence can be temporary or occasional.

An individual's domicile is the country in which he is presumed to be permanently resident. It depends on the physical fact of residence plus the intention of remaining, and is a concept of general law.

Surprisingly, the terms "resident" and "ordinarily resident" are not defined in the United Kingdom Taxes Act and are generally used in their everyday sense and with reference to a particular tax year.

To count as non-resident, you must be in full-time employment overseas for at least one full tax year. Your visits to the United Kingdom must not exceed a total of six months (taken as 183 days, excluding days of arrival and departure) in a particular tax year or, in the case of frequent visits, three months per year when averaged over four consecutive years.

Ordinarily "resident" means habitually resident and it is possible for someone to be resident in the United Kingdom for example in 1984/85, because he has exceeded the 183-day limit for that year, but to be not ordinarily resident if he has worked abroad for the previous years without breaking the days spent overseas rules.

The Inland Revenue also maintains that a person is resident if he has accommodation available for his use in the United Kingdom, but this is ignored if the person is working full time overseas. As a rule, it is the husband who is employed abroad, and wives (who are treated independently for residence purposes) rarely find full-time employment because of local restrictions. Consequently, the wife has only to set foot in Heathrow airport and she loses her non-resident status by dint of having accommodation available for her use in the United Kingdom.

On the positive side, if the wife becomes resident, she is entitled to use her single person's allowance to offset any income earned in the UK.

Crown servants, whose salaries are taxed at source in the United Kingdom, can still establish non-resident status for the purposes of capital gains and offshore investments provided they meet the requirements.

Anyone leaving part way through the tax year should submit a P85 tax form to establish provisional non-resident status with the Inland Revenue before going overseas and claim a PAYE rebate.

Obviously, not all overseas contracts span a full fiscal year, offering the added bonus of non-resident status, but other reliefs are available. Residents who spend at least 30 days working overseas in the year of assessment are currently entitled to 12.5 per cent tax relief on the proportion of earnings from overseas duties, but this relief ceases in 1985/86.

Longer absences can attract full tax relief on overseas earnings (but not capital gains or other sources of income) provided the overseas employment is carried out during a qualifying period of 285 days or more, not necessarily confined to one tax year.

During this period, visits to the United Kingdom must not exceed either 62 consecutive days or one-sixth of the total days in the "overseas-at-home-overseas" sandwich.

By way of example, take the two construction workers, Jim and Bill, who spend the following number of days working in Tanzania.

Jim	153
Days in Tanzania	21
Days in UK	153
Days in Tanzania	21
Holiday	(348)
	(369)

Bill	40
Days in Tanzania	40
Days in UK	100
Days in Tanzania	100
Holiday	(180)
	21
Days in UK	270
Days in Tanzania	(391)

Jim has two five-month contracts with a break in the United Kingdom. He takes his paid leave in Tanzania but, because the total number of days since leaving the United Kingdom for his first contract add up to only 348, they do not count as a qualifying period. So Jim takes an extra 21 days' holiday in Kenya to bring the total up to 369.

Had he returned to the United Kingdom after 348 days, Jim would have had to pay income tax on overseas earnings (and would have been eligible for 12.5% relief if working in 1984/85). Instead, he extended the period to 369 days, of which 21 were spent in the United Kingdom, and as the days spent in the United Kingdom exceed neither 62 nor one sixth of 369, Jim qualifies for 100% tax relief on his overseas earnings.

Bill, however, spent 40 days abroad before being called back to England suddenly for family reasons. His next period abroad lasted 100 days, but because the time spent in the United Kingdom between two spells abroad (40 days) exceeds one sixth of the total number of days under consideration (140 = 180-40 days) this period does not count towards the qualifying days.

Instead, counting must start again from 100 days abroad. This time, 21 days in the United Kingdom in tax matters the opposite is true and the onus is on the expatriate to prove to the Inland Revenue that his days add up correctly. Passport, stamps, air tickets, and hotel bills should suffice.

# The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

## Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the Fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,013 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £253 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar national investment in the FT Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 May '64				
1965	£396	£536	£10,000	£10,000
1970	463	650	10,200	10,000
1975	828	871	10,760	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	16,300	10,000
1984	2,013	853	24,280	10,000

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '66				
1966	19,534	20,080	£10,000	£10,000
1967	31,947	28,230	11,293	11,293
1970	47,537	30,540	13,492	13,492
1975	81,843	39,620	17,143	17,143
1980	200,813	61,600	31,107	31,107
1984	463,579	142,410	62,494	62,494

### SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

All applications received by 5th April 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued at the price ruling on receipt of this application).

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you own and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

DIVIDEND	£	00
RECOVERY	£	00
SECOND	£	00

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Unit Trust Association

# IT'S YOUR LIFE

## Saving for Retirement?

With London Life your savings can attract a net yield of 21% p.a.\*

There's no better time to begin making provision for a prosperous and happy retirement than the present - and no better way of doing so than with a London Life retirement savings plan.

With London Life a net outlay of just £50 per month over a ten year period could produce a cash fund of £18,334 to provide retirement benefits - which represents a net annual yield of 21%.

A very impressive figure to say the least - but how exactly is it achieved? The answer is simple. The plan is one of the most tax-efficient on the market.

- Tax relief at a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 60% on each contribution.
- The savings accumulate in a tax-free fund.
- Tax-free lump sum payable at retirement.

**London Life**

To: New Business Department, The London Life Association Limited, Freepost, 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6YJ (no stamp required). I would like to know more about London Life's retirement savings plan.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Retirement Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Monthly Savings: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %

Are you a member of a Company Pension Scheme? \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No: Business \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

(If you prefer, you can call Carol Woodley on 01 483 8010 on Pacific Northwest on 0272 279179 to discuss your requirements personally.)

London Life - over 175 years of assurance

## 16.8% PA NET\*

### GUARANTEED MONTHLY INCOME

- \* High monthly income guaranteed for 10 years.
- \* Return of capital after 10 years (assuming current bonus rates maintained).
- \* Optional Life Cover.
- \* Attractive to higher rate taxpayers.

Interest rates are fluctuating and when interest rates fall, so does the monthly income from national savings investments, bank and building society accounts.

You can now secure a high guaranteed income together with a return of capital at the end of the term.

In order to receive a personal quotation just post the coupon today.

For a man aged 75 paying tax at basic rate (With Nil Life Assurance).

Registered Insurance Broker  
Licensed Dealer in Securities  
London Birmingham Worcester

POST TO: CHARTERHALL INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD, 4 HIGHFIELD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 3EH.

Please send, with no obligation, a personal quotation for a guaranteed monthly income.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount available for investment (minimum £3000) £ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Life Assurance required ☐ Nil ☐ 50% ☐ 100%

## £5 ONLY

### ONLY

PRACTICAL INVESTOR, the lively investment magazine, contains interesting articles on a wide-ranging number of financial opportunities - plus some very special offers.

The current issue includes:

- NEW The top Guaranteed Income Bond. 10% a year (NET of basic rate tax).
- NEW Tax-free investment in Gilts and a Unit Trust which has gone up over 100% in less than two years (all taxpayers).
- NEW An investment in an American Mutual Fund which has performed more than twice as well as any UK based American fund over the past 10 years.

A 10% TAX-FREE income plan (for basic rate taxpayers) from a Unit Trust which has performed 350% better over the last seven years than any other UK unit trust.

PLUS advice, with some special discount offers, on Unit Trust investments for 1985 AND The chance to win £1,000 on a "phantom" bet with the ICI Index.

SPECIAL OFFER

As a special introductory offer, you can have a full year's subscription (which normally costs £10) for just £5. Simply complete the coupon below and return it with £5 to: Practical Investor, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE. Tel: 01-353 8624.

To: PRACTICAL INVESTOR, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE

I enclose £5 cheque/postal order/cash as the specially reduced one year subscription to Practical Investor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %

# £20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

### WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

Amount paid in	£	£	£
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,705
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,262	15,320
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,148	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are "net" prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-628 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

### NO EXTRA CHARGES

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ \_\_\_\_\_ (in £20 units) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

SP 360615

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

To: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

If no fund is circled your plan will be invested in M&G SECOND.

AMERICAN & GEN.	INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALASIAN	JAPAN & GEN.
COMPOUND GROWTH	RECOVERY
DIVIDEND	SECOND
GENERAL	SMALLER COs
GOLD	

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

THE M&G GROUP



# Just ask at the hole in the wall

The next generation of automated teller machines is much more sophisticated than the cash dispenser we know and love. Neil Madden reviews some of its possibilities

THE march of the cash dispenser across the country has revolutionised banking and helped crystallise attitudes to banks: yes, we do prefer to stand in the rain rather than face a non user friendly cashier.

But, if you thought that all a cash machine could do was to spit out £10 notes and tell you how low your balance was, then you are living in the technological dark age.

The next generation of automated teller machines (ATMs) can, completely automatically, arrange loans and insurance, buy and sell shares, and advise on different savings schemes. It will be some time before they start appearing in high streets and places of work and, meanwhile, you will be more interested in knowing exactly where you can get your hands on your money right now.

At present only National Westminster and Midland banks have a reciprocal agreement which lets the cardholders of one bank use the machines of the other. Royal Bank of Scotland cardholders can use Williams & Glyn's machines, and vice versa, but as the former owns the latter, this hardly counts.

However, by the end of the year, the picture will have changed dramatically. Starting this summer, the LINK group of 21 financial institutions will begin installing ATMs, all of which can be used by the customers of any one of them. Then, later in the year, seven big building societies will start a shared network of machines and the remaining clearing banks will

have their own reciprocal arrangements.

The extent of the services available will depend on the type of computer link that each network adopts. The most advanced so far planned is the one for the seven building societies (collectively known as EFT Ltd). Their system will enable each society's computer to "talk" directly to any other in the network without first having to be routed through a central processor.

You will not be able to carry out all the transactions available at your "home" branch at any of the "away" machines. Mostly you will be limited to cash withdrawals.

Nearly all machines will currently give out cash, show the balance, and order a statement or new cheque book. Some Lloyds Bank machines will accept deposits, and new systems coming on stream this year will also have that facility.

The one building society not joining in with any of the others is the Halifax. Their argument is that as they are the largest society they have nothing to gain from sharing with the others.

The Halifax already has 250 Cardcash machines installed, and a further 100 in the pipeline. Apart from cash withdrawals and deposits, the account gives you a balance enquiry, "mini" statements and standing orders. Later

this year the Halifax will introduce a bill-paying service through ATMs.

By the end of the year, the various share arrangements should be as follows:

**The LINK Group**  
300 ATMs by mid-1987

National Girobank (machines sited at post offices)  
Co-operative Bank  
American Express  
Citibank Savings  
Dunbar & Co.  
Western Trust and Savings  
HFC Trust

Building societies:  
Abbey National  
Nationwide  
Britannia

Coventry Gateway  
Saxons  
Town & Country  
Yorkshire  
Derbyshire  
Dunfermline  
Peterborough  
Portman  
Chelsea  
Eastbourne Mutual

The first switchover will be possible in September when the National Girobank and Abbey National machines are linked. As well as at branches, LINK machines will be installed in airports, shopping centres, department stores and possibly railway stations. Some members will allow withdrawals from their ordinary cheque accounts; others, particularly the building societies, are likely to set up special accounts to use the machines.

**Members of EFT Ltd**  
200 ATMs by year end, 180 of which linked.

These are all building societies who chose not to join with other financial institutions:  
Leeds Permanent  
Woolwich  
National & Provincial  
Anglia  
Alliance  
Bradford & Bingley  
Leicester (already has 250 ATMs)

The first sharing will take place in the autumn by which time more societies may have joined. EFT members may eventually change their policy and join forces with the LINK group.

## The high price of solvency

Rosemary Burr takes a withering look at bank charges

IT IS about time banks came clean on charges. A full tariff of charges including those little extras like the cost of stopping cheques should at least be on every counter around the country. Changes in fees should be notified, with rises in transaction costs included with bank statements.

If you thought the only charges you were likely to have deducted straight away from your account were for cheques, standing orders, direct debits and cash machine withdrawals, then you are in for an unpleasant surprise.

Anyone who wants to cancel a cheque will be charged at least £2 for the privilege. What is worse, if you pay a cheque into your account and this is subsequently cancelled, then you end up footing a bill for about £2 as well as the canceller.

Bounced cheques through insufficient funds are an extremely expensive business. Depending on your bank this could cost between about £7 and £4. You may also end up having to pay for receiving cheques "bounced" from your bank manager. Standard letters merely informing customers of overdrafts come rather cheaper at around £2 to £3 than ones specially composed for a single customer's misdemeanours, these could cost £6 or £7.

Then there is what is called special presentation of cheques. Under normal circumstances it takes around three days for cheques to be cleared and the money paid into your account. If you need cash

quickly — say for a house or car — then you can ask the bank to speed up the proceedings. Special presentation should ensure the funds are transferred in 24 rather than 72 hours. This will cost about £3 extra.

Yet more costs can be run up if you ask for extra bank statements. These are vital pieces of paper when you come to sort out your annual tax return so keep them in a safe place. Duplicates turn out pretty pricey — usually about £1 a page.

Then there are overdrafts. On top of the interest charge which you obviously pay, Barclays and Nat West, among the major High Street banks, add a 1 per cent arrangement fee. If collateral is needed, the costs will grow as it takes the bank some time to check the validity of your security.

You can also pay for storage of documents such as share certificates and house deeds. Prices vary but they start at about £2.

Bank charges are deducted straight from your account. Unlike any other services you are not billed for. Although privately many bankers agree this is unacceptable, so far the only move they have made is to spell out details of charges more clearly on statements.

None of these charges bears a direct clear cut relation to the current account balance. Even people enjoying so-called "free banking" will not escape the charging net.

All the banks say, however, that individual managers have discretion. Top notch customers doing large amounts of business with the branch will probably find the charges waived or reduced. The trouble is the first you may know of the bill is a scrawled note accompanying a returned cheque or worse still a debit item on your bank statement.

### Sharing arrangements scheduled by the big four banks

Bank	No. of ATMs	Sharing	Balance Enquiry	Statement Request	Cheque Request	Deposit
NatWest	1,375	Midland, Northern, Ulster, Clydesdale, Access, Systema 4B**	Yes	Yes	Yes	"Looking very carefully"
Barclays	835	Lloyds, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Williams & Glyn, TSB, Yorkshire, Barclaycard*	Yes	Yes	No	No

\*Cash advances available on your credit card, but you start paying interest immediately, with no free credit period. Barclaycard holders will soon be able to use ATMs for cash advances at a number of holiday spots in Europe.

Bank	No. of ATMs	Sharing	Balance Enquiry	Statement Request	Cheque Request	Deposit
Lloyds	1,800	Barclays, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Williams & Glyn	Yes	No	No	Yes
Midland	1,000	NatWest, Northern, Ulster, Clydesdale, Access, Systema 4B**	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

\*\*Systema 4B. 500 ATMs throughout Spain. Will take uniform Eurocheque cards to draw on current accounts in Britain. 28p per transaction plus 1% per cent commission to Spanish bank. Machines programmed to give instructions in English.



## Come on up to Abbey National's new Seven Day level!

Just £100 gets you started!

These days, your money has really to earn its keep. And Abbey National offers you the chance to get up to a higher level of interest for as little as £100. Small wonder that close to 1.5 million Abbey National Seven Day Accounts have been opened.

No notice over £2,500

You can deposit between £100 and £30,000 (£60,000 for joint accounts). You give seven days' notice to withdraw (it's surprising how few demands can't wait seven days). And, if you leave £2,500 in, we don't even need that notice. Interest (currently 8.75% net p.a.) is credited half-yearly. If that interest is left to grow in the account, the effective annual rate is even better, working out at 8.94%.

Use the coupon. Or come to your local branch. It's time for you to come on up to Seven Day level!

**8.75% = 8.94% = 12.77%**

NET APPLIED RATE  
NET EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE WHEN HALF-YEARLY INTEREST REMAINS INVESTED  
GROSS EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE TO BANK RATE PAYERS

To: Dept. 7.D.N., Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ.

I/We enclose a cheque numbered \_\_\_\_\_ to be invested in a Seven Day Account at my/our local branch in \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send me full details and an application card.  
Minimum investment £100. Maximum £30,000 per person, £60,000 joint account.  
I/We understand that withdrawals can be made at any time, subject to my/our having given 7 days' written notice (no notice or charge provided a balance of £2,500 remains after withdrawal).  
I/We understand that the rate may vary.

Full name(s) Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ G29

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ABBEY NATIONAL SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT**

Get the Abbey Habit

ABBEYNATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL

**27.8% p.a.** CAPITAL GROWTH WITH TAX FREE INCOME

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Member of N.A.S.D.I.M.

Minimum investment only £1,000.

**£10,000** in 2 years worth **£16,316!**

SEND NOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION. No stamp required.

Hammond House Investments Ltd., FREEPOST, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1YD or telephone 0625 871490.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Top executives requiring £100,000 p.a. at retirement please apply here.**

Combining an Equitable top-up pension policy with your company scheme is an ideal way of planning for a six figure annual pension.

You should be eligible if your company pension will be less than two thirds of your final salary, and if your contributions are less than 15% of your current salary.

And for a relatively small outlay, all of which qualifies for tax relief, the results can be quite staggering.

For example, on present projections, a 35 year old man, in the 40% tax bracket, paying £1500 a year after tax relief, could expect at 65 an annual gross pension of £135,459! (And that's in addition to his company pension).

How can the Equitable hope to produce such outstanding returns?

Well whilst the past cannot guarantee the future, as "Planned Savings" magazine noted, we have been "one of the most consistent of performers in the 10 year tables".

And of course, we don't pay commission to middlemen.

So if you'd like to retire on the kind of pension you're only dreaming about, earning out the coupon or speak to us directly on 01-606 6611.

\*Features support current immediate annuity rates apply at the time and that current bonus rates, including terminal bonus, are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed.

\*\*August 1984 summary of 10th profiles individual pension plans.

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Protesters' sit-in at Camden Town Hall

# A rented refuge from the storm

How can you benefit both the private landlord and the homeless? Tim Roberts looks at one council's neat solution to a housing crisis

LAST November a fire broke out at an hotel used for housing homeless families in Westminster. A Bengali woman and her two children were killed. The fire provoked a crisis in the borough of Camden which was using the hotel as temporary accommodation for homeless families. The council responded swiftly to the demands of a homeless pressure group whose tactics included occupying the town hall and kept a senior officer of the council hostage overnight.

As part of an emergency programme to find alternatives to potentially dangerous bed and breakfast accommodation for its 1,500 homeless families, Camden agreed to rehouse them all within six months.

Last week the council unveiled its plan to combat the temporary accommodation problem with the introduction of a revolutionary new scheme which, if successful, could have profound implications not just for the homeless but for everyone seeking short-term rented accommodation in the borough.

The new Short Term Leasing scheme works like this: Camden appeals to owners of vacant residential property in the borough to grant Camden council a lease on the dwellings. The lease is drawn up

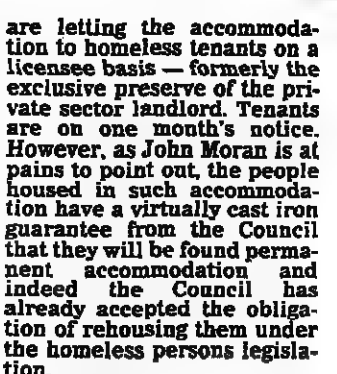
for an agreed period — at least 12 months — and in most cases Camden will waive their right to renew the lease. Camden then takes on the maintenance of the property, pays the rates and pays rent to the owners. If the property is in substandard condition the council will effect repairs.

There is no particular limit to how much the Council will spend bringing a property back into habitable condition but, says John Moran of the Short Term Leasing section, the amount spent will depend on the length of the lease that is being granted to Camden. The longer the lease, the more the council is prepared to spend.

However, there is a top limit of £10,000 per dwelling which is imposed by the Department of the Environment. All spending over that amount has to meet with their approval and on past performance they are unlikely to give it.

Camden then leases the accommodation to its homeless families until they can be found suitable permanent accommodation in the borough.

This highlights one of the most interesting aspects of the deal: in order that Camden can guarantee vacant possession of the property after their lease runs out they



are letting the accommodation to homeless tenants on a license basis — formerly the exclusive preserve of the private sector landlord. Tenants are on one month's notice. However, as John Moran is at pains to point out, the people housed in such accommodation have a virtually cast iron guarantee from the Council that they will be found permanent accommodation and indeed the Council has already accepted the obligation of rehousing them under the homeless persons legislation.

Rent to the owners of the property will, of course, be on a fair rent basis. "Although," says John Moran, "owners should look at the whole financial package which we have put together," which includes maintenance of the building, rates, and other taxes on the property. In other words, the owners can benefit from a less than market value rent by the fact that they have no other outgoings on the property.

Camden estimate that some 3,000 to 4,000 privately owned properties could be brought into use through the scheme. Many of these properties will, however, be substandard or unfit for habitation. One of the principal reasons that the property remains unfit is the fact that owners would be

liable to improvement notices if they let their property in its present condition. Alternatively, they may not have the cash themselves to effect the necessary repairs, or may not see any financial advantage in doing so.

Camden intends that the exercise will cost them nothing. They set the expenses of the scheme against what they would have to pay if they kept homeless families in bed and breakfast accommodation, which costs on average £200 to £300 a week per family.

Overall, the scheme provides an imaginative response to an acute housing problem and one which could lead to a mini-revival of the private rented sector. Much depends on the response of the Department of the Environment. In theory it is just the sort of private and public sector partnership that the Government claims it favours.

With encouragement and support the scheme could do a lot to reverse the inexorable trend of the post war era and make private sector rented accommodation once again part of the housing scene.

For further details of Short Term Leasing contact John Moran, Short Term Leasing Section, Camden Housing Department. Tel: 01-274 4444

Well, where is your central heating drainage point?

ONE OF the problems with buying a house is the competitive lack of information that you get about the history of the property, improvements made, who did them, where the previous owners or even where the drainage point for the central heating system is.

One solution devised by property consultants Davenport Kingdom is the property log book, which is handed on from seller to buyer as the house changes hands.

The company has recently revamped its property log

book in a new hardback 40 page version which gives most of the information described above, as well as detailed plans of the house and a guide to carpet and curtain measurements.

However, at £4.40 for the hardback version (available from the company in Langport, Somerset) or £2.20 for the softback version, many buyers might find it an added expense that they don't really need.

Now, though, both a major building society and one of the high street banks in the

mortgage market are considering adopting the log book as a gift to people taking out mortgages. The idea might catch on yet. Every home should have one?

THE WORLD and his dog want to get in on the mortgage act these days. Latest to offer home loans is the merchant banking division of National Westminster, County Bank, in conjunction with Providence Capital Life Assurance.

They are offering home loans on property with a minimum value of £20,000, up

to a maximum loan of £150,000. Applicants will be able to choose between having their mortgage linked to a pension or to an endowment contract with advances offered up to three times the main earner's income, plus the spouse's earnings.

It is becoming more fashionable in the burgeoning home-loan business. Interest rates will be linked directly to rates obtaining on the London money markets (three months' LIBOR for those interested in technicalities).

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## SATURDAY

### BBC-1

- 7.10-8.25 am Open University. 8.30 The Persians. 8.35 The Littlest Hobo. 9.0 Saturday Superstore. 12.12 pm Weather.
- 12.15 GRANDSTAND. Including: Football Focus (12.20); news (12.50); skiing - World Alpine Championships from Italy (12.55); racing from Newbury (1.25); 1.55; 2.25; athletics - GB v West Germany at RAF Cusford (1.40; 2.50; 4.15); bowls - World Indoor Championship from Coatbridge (2.10; 4.15); ice skating - European Championships featuring Barber and Slater (2.50); rugby league (3.55); final score (4.40).
- 5.5 NEWS; sport; weather; regional news.
- 5.20 DOCTOR WHO: The Mark of the Rani. Part 2. Concluding half of the latest time tale, with Colin Baker as the Doc, pitted against the formidable alliance of the Master (Anthony Ainley) and the Rani (Kate O'Mara). CeeFax sub-titles.
- 6.5 JIMMY FIX IT. More wish-fulfillment, as J. Saville gives a busload of schoolkids the bumps, wakes up a small sleeping beauty, and stages a re-defying soccer replay.
- 6.40 THE LITTLE AND LARGE SHOW. Comedy with Sid and Eddie, and their guests, with music from The Drifters.
- 7.15 ONE BY ONE: You and Whose Army? Veteran funny man Jimmy Jewel makes a guest appearance in the drama serial, as the village eccentric helping vet Donald (Rob Heyland) to identify the local vandals. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 8.50 DYNASTY. Violets are shy, roses are gaudier! Is Dex or her ex who's psyching poor Claudia? CeeFax sub-titles.
- 8.50 BERGERAC. Ninety Per Cent Proof. John Nettles as the Jersey 'ec', in a re-run of the one where a tipsy Jim thinks he's seen a murder. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 9.45 NEWS; sport; weather.
- 10.0 MATCH OF THE DAY. Jimmy Hill with the soccer highlights, news, results and pools.
- 10.50 ONE-EYED JACKS. Marlon Brando directs himself as the desperado whose outlaw chum Karl Malden makes off with the loot, leaving him to take the rap, in flawed but compelling Western, made in 1961. 1.5 Weather; close.

### BBC-2

- 6.25 am Open University. 3.10 pm Pages from CeeFax.
- 3.30 MICRO LIVE. Another chance to see yesterday's programme, from the British Telecom Research Laboratory.
- 4.20 THE HOUNDS OF ZAROFF. The off-mated, classic manhunt thriller, made in 1932, which has heroic Joel McCrea and lovely Fay Wray on the run from batty aristocrat hunsman Leslie Banks.
- 5.20 STAGECOACH. Ann-Margret, Red Buttons, Bing Crosby lead so-so 1966 remake of the classic John Ford Western.
- 7.10 NEWS; sport; weather.
- 7.25 A VOUS LA FRANCE! Second showing for the last weekend's final language lesson.
- 7.50 RUGBY SPECIAL: Neath v Swansea. Nigel Starmer-Smith with highlights of the Welsh club match, a preview of next week's Home Championship kick-off, and a look ahead to the Grand Slam clash between France and Scotland in Paris.
- 8.40 BEYOND SORROW, BEYOND PAIN. This moving, uplifting Swedish film had a tremendous impact on audiences at last year's London Film Festival, and has achieved international recognition for its challenge to entrenched attitudes about the handicapped. Made by the young filmmaker, Agneta Elers-Jarlemann. It tells the story of her devotion to her French lover Jean, left brain-damaged and paralysed after a car accident, and written off as beyond rehabilitation by the medical establishment. Agneta spent five years bringing Jean back to a modified but meaningful existence, and in filming her work.
- 10.0 BLOTT ON THE LANDSCAPE. Another chance to see last Wednesday's opening episode in the new dramatisation, by Malcolm Bradbury, of Tom Sharpe's blackly comic novel, with George Cole, Geraldine James, David Suchet. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 10.50 WORLD BOWLS. Highlights of this afternoon's second semi-final in the World Indoor Championship.
- 11.40 WORLD SKI-ING CHAMPIONSHIPS. The best of the action from today's Ladies' Slalom event from Bormio in Italy, with David Vine commentating. 12.15 Close.

### ITV London

- 6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 3.30 The Wake-up Club. 9.25 Information: Cartoon Time. 9.35 Scooby Scrappy and Yabba Doo. 10.0 No 73. 11.20 Space 1999.
- 12.15 WORLD OF SPORT. Including: skiing - World Alpine Championships (12.20); news (12.45); On the Ball (12.50); racing from Ayr (1.15; 1.45; 2.15); international athletics from California (1.30); darts - England v The World (2.5; 2.35); skating - European Championships from Gothenburg (3.10); half-time soccer (3.45); wrestling (4.0); results (4.45).
- 5.0 NEWS; sport; weather.
- 5.5 BLOCKBUSTERS. Bob Holness with the teenagers' quiz.
- 5.55 THE A-TEAM: Breakout. George Peppard leads the he-man band in another escapade.
- 6.30 THE FAME GAME. More tremulous talent (well, performers...) introduced by Tim Brooke-Taylor. (Love your impression of a glibly insincere TV host, Tim, but if the wind changes you could stay that way...)
- 7.15 ALL STAR SECRETS. Michael Parkinson plays the silly guessing game with showbiz chums including Pat Phoenix, Lesley Bennett and talking of wind-changes and being doomed to wear a fixed grin for eternity, Jeremy Beadle. Oracle sub-titles.
- 7.45 T. J. HOOKER: Undercover Affair. William Shatner as the honourable cop now blotting his copybook and getting suspended, in pedestrian imported crime series.
- 8.45 THE PRICE IS RIGHT. Is Leslie Crowther's mirthless grin more or less chilling than Jeremy Beadle's?
- 9.45 NEWS; sport; weather.
- 10.0 ASPEL AND COMPANY. Michael A. with guest chatters David Essex, Claire Rayner and Dame Edna Everage. London News Headlines.
- 10.50 AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET. The Girls They Left Behind. Raising the tone of the evening's viewing, even on its second outing, the splendid saga of Geordie bricks in Germany continues.
- 11.50 MAGNUM: Foiled Again. Tom Selleck leads the Hawaiian eyeing.
- 12.45 BIZARE. Would-be provocative comedy from the States, hosted by John Byner.
- 1.10 NEW FROM LONDON: H20.
- 2.10 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Monsignor John Crowley. Closedown.

### Channel 4

- 1.5 pm Everybody Here. 1.30 The Making of Britain. 5. The Triumph of Scotland.
- 2.0 HUDSON'S BAY. Paul Muni as trap-opening in the frozen north of 17th-century Canada courtesy of his patron King Vincent Price, in 1940 costume epic.
- 3.45 THE GRACE ALLEN MURDER CASE. The dizzy comedienne playing herself - without George Burns - to Warren William's sleuth, in 1939 comedy mystery.
- 5.5 BROOKSIDE. Omnibus edition.
- 6.0 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS. Is success affecting Culture Club? George and the boys talk about the price of fame to Paul Gambaccini, who also interviews Don McLean. News Summary; weather.
- 7.0 SEVEN DAYS. What rights should a 14-day old embryo enjoy?
- 7.30 SHAPE OF THE WORLD. 5. The Communist Spectre. Charles Wheeler chairs the last discussion in the series on global issues, about the state of Communism today, with Caspar Weinberger and Denis Healey among the participants.
- 8.15 AS THE YEARS PASS, AS THE DAYS PASS. Continuing the (subtitled) Polish TV drama, chronicling the progress up to the First World War of the two middle-class families now, like the rest of Cracow, much affected by the stage debut of Wyspianski's play The Wedding.
- 9.25 HONEGGER: CONCERTINO FOR FALLA: HARPSICORD CONCERTO: ANTHELM: JAZZ SYMPHONY. Another musical programme in the series for European Music Year, featuring three pieces - the last performed in a rubbishy dump - directed by Adrian Marthaler.
- 10.0 HILL STREET BLUES: Intestinal Fortitude. More drama with the cops of Hill Street precinct.
- 11.0 ONCE IN A LIFETIME. Another chance to see Geoff Dunlop's outstanding music documentary on David Byrne and his band Talking Heads.
- SAC: 2.0 pm A Question of Economics. 2.30 A Week in Politics. 3.15 The British at War. 5.10 The Decade of Destruction. 6.5 Where in the World? 6.55 The Avengers. 7.30 Newsworld. 7.45 Star Trek. 8.15 Wally. 8.45 Top Tenz. 9.25 3. Mass Closures. 10.20 Julia. 11.20 Film: The Roaring Twenties. 1939's gangster classic with Cagney and Bogart. 1.10 Diweid.

### Radio 1

- 6.0 am Mark Page. 8.0 Peter Powell. 10.0 Dave Lee Travis. 1.0 pm Punk to Present. 4.20 Paul Gambaccini. 4.40 Saturday Live. 6.30 In Concert: Spandau Ballet. 7.30 Phil Kennedy. 9.30 12.0 Dixie Radio.
- Radio 2
- 4.0 am Chris Jones. 6.0 George Fergusson. 8.0 David Jacobs (A Tribute to Matt Monro). 9.30 10.0 Sound by Six. 11.0 Album Time. 1.0 pm The Impressionists. 1.30 Sport on 2. 6.0 Folk on 2. 7.0 Beat the Record. 7.30 Ron Goodwin. 9.30 Big Band Special. 10.0 Steve Jones. 12.5 am Night Owls. 1.0 Peter Dickinson. 3.0-4.0 Wally Whyton.
- Radio 3
- 6.35 Open University (VHF). 6.55 Weather: News; Aubade. 7.0 News; Record Review; Holst's Piano: new opera recordings. 10.15 Stereo Release. Gounod: St Cecilia Mass (French Radio Chorus and Orchestre Georges Pretre). 11.10 BBC SO/Pritchard, Craig Sheppard (piano). Berlioz: Overture to Carnival Roman: Chopin: Piano Concerto No 1 (12.0 Interval: Strauss: Symphonies domestica). 1.0 News; Schubert (Sonata in A minor) and Brahms (Four Piano Pieces). Steven de Groote (piano). 2.0 Verdi's Operas: Aida. Sung in Italian with Maria Callas (Aida), Richard Tucker (Radames). Tito Gobbi (Amos). Chorus and orchestra of La Scala, Milan, cond Tullio Serafin. Interval at 3.25. 4.45 Frans Bruggen plays his own arrangement for solo recorder of Jean-Fery Rebel's Suite in G minor. 5.0 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Critics' Forum: Gogol's Government Inspector. The RTT: Frank Kermode on BBC1; film Blood Simple; Patricia Bosworth's biography of Diane Arbus. 6.35 Chillingian Quartet. Mozart: Quartet No 20: Stravinsky: Three Pieces; Schubert: Quartet movement in C minor. 7.20 Black English Literature. Talk by Frank S. Gantner. 7.40 Chillingian Quartet, part 2. Beethoven: Quartet Op 127. 8.25 The Idea Behind the Music. Alexander Goehr on interpreting Schoenberg. 8.45 BBC POW/Robert Boettcher. Bruckner: Symphony No 7. 9.45 The Troubadour Tradition: Songs from the court of Boniface de Montferrat, chansons de toile, and ballads from the Florentine Ars Nova performed by Esther Lamandier (voice, harp, portative organ and vielle). 10.30 Scar. Story by Richard Walker. 11.0 Norway after Grieg. Ludvig Jørgensen Jensen. Symphony in D minor (Oslo PO/Pjeldstad). Fauré: Violin Concerto. Larsve Tellefsen/Bergen SO/Andersen. 11.57 News.

### World Service

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